

BANAT: THE **BLOG SITE**

ORIGINAL PERSPECTIVE.

THE SITE

The writer is an 18-year old communication student with a deep interest in politics and media, and is an avid reader and keen observer in public events, whether in the Philippines or around the globe.

The site uses two mediums of communication, English to reach a broad audience not only in the Philippines and also the world, and Filipino for better understanding, though the writer hopes to communicate in other Philippine languages as well, as well as foreign languages, most especially Spanish and Russian.

That's it, welcome and enjoy.

SHARE THIS:

WELCOME ABOARD!

Welcome aboard to this new blog. You will expect a lot of ideas and opinions about anything that's revolving around us. We're still in the process of working this out so for now, sit back, relax, and watch out!

Posted on February 4, 2016 Posted in [Uncategorized](#) [Leave a comment](#)

A NEW KID ON **THE BLOCK**

Okay, let's get this rolling.

This is going to be the first time I will be running a serious blog after failed attempts over the years. And I'm too hesitant because I tend to be forgetful of things, I can't get my priorities straight, I have a journal to write on, I have messy thoughts (thus making it difficult to put my thoughts into writing), and I don't know what people would react to my posts. Also I'm more confident to say my thoughts orally, to anyone who cares enough to listen.

But I started it, so I have to prove it. Because this is going to be a good practice before I get into my chosen profession in the future. And people (more specifically my mom and my professor) are now telling me to write my ideas so everyone could read about them.

So, maybe, that's already enough for me to start. So , for now, goodbye.

Posted on February 5, 2016Posted in [Uncategorized](#)[Leave a comment](#)

WOULD YOU RISK **YOURSELF TO GO** **CRAZY OVER** **SOMEONE WHO HAS**

REJECTED **YOU ALREADY?**

Just a random thought. Most of you guys have already experienced the feeling of being rejected by someone you loved so dearly, or something which was a product of a misunderstanding yet never gave you the chance to explain yourself. That hurts, though, but we just have to face cold-hard facts that it should end right there.

But, you can't help thinking sometimes. What if, after years of keeping a distance, if one day you meet each other again, would that person change his or her attitude towards you? Or if he or she gave you the chance to explain everything, and explain that you only want to have peace with him or her, nothing else.

But if he or she is so stubborn, and you may have inflicted a wound too deep enough and it would be really hard to heal by itself, maybe you really should leave it alone. Maybe that person should never be given another chance to get into your space.

To forgive is to forget. We can forget but cannot forgive, or forgive, but cannot forget. Any of the two, we should leave that chapter alone and continue our journey, wherever they take us.

Posted on [February 5, 2016](#)Posted in [Uncategorized](#)[Leave a comment](#)

BINAY ON DUTERTE: **MY TAKE**



(Image source: http://www.bitagtheoriginal.com/files/theme/tu_binay-duterte-thumb.jpg)

Sensing that the 2016 presidential race is increasingly becoming a fight between Senator Grace Poe and Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Vice President Jejomar Binay as of late recently launched attacks on the latter, questioning the mayor's ability to fulfill his campaign promise of getting rid of crime and corruption within a timeframe of 3-6 months, and on the supposed links on extrajudicial killings, which the mayor repeatedly denies.

While Mayor Rody Duterte has expressed his denials that he has never been involved in any case of extrajudicial killings, he has stated that killing criminals must always remain within the rule of law, most especially in cases when the criminal offers a violent resistance or when the law-enforcer's life is in danger.

Even as far as claiming that only the poor will get killed (as if he wanted to be the first casualty from the ruling class), and minors, women, and the elderly will also get killed based on mere suspicion (of course there is nothing to back up those claims).

May it be remembered that during the second presidential debates held in Cebu City last March 21, we have heard little from VP Binay on Mayor Duterte (except of course the “technical malversation” issue), even expressing admiration for the latter, now that we’re a month before we head to the polls, what’s with the sudden shift?

Well, we can say that it’s because of the surveys. The recent SWS survey conducted on March 30 says that Mayor Duterte and Sen. Poe are on a statistical tie, with 34% of those surveyed stating that they would vote for Poe and 31% said they would go for Duterte (Binay and Roxas tied at 17%), and an MBC-DZRH mock poll conducted on April 2 states that Mayor Duterte is the front-runner with 36% and Poe trailing at 28%, and One Cebu’s dumping of an alliance with UNA in favor of Duterte.

What has Mayor Duterte said so far as the recent Binay attacks are concerned? In an interview, he stated that a “criminal is a criminal, whether rich or poor.”

Now, what’s my take on this?

Why is he taking a big deal out of his hardline stance on crime while he cannot even answer simple questions regarding his bank accounts, overpriced projects, his family’s lavish lifestyle, and properties (and when being brought up, he cries foul just as when Duterte answered his allegations, stating they were “below the belt”. Who started it anyway?)

Will this affect his already poor showing with the majority of the electorate? And could we expect a tougher response from Mayor Duterte in the coming days? Let’s see.

Posted on April 8, 2016Posted in [Uncategorized](#)[Leave a comment](#)

NEGATIVE **CAMPAIGNING** **BEFORE THE POLLS**

You have witnessed a flurry of negative campaigning in the final homestretch of the campaign season before the elections which will take place this Monday. It has become so dirty that a certain candidate began unleashing a series of attacks, from alleged multi-million bank accounts, ghost employees, properties, and now, a negative ad campaign using kids which all but one station has refused to air despite being offered P20 million pesos.

We all have questions lingering in our minds. How does he get these informations? How sure is he? Is he being backed by someone from behind? And how the hell was he able to persuade these kids (and parents, maybe) to do this ad? And how can you afford such a negative campaign ad yet we hardly see your own campaign ad and you are trailing behind the surveys?

The candidate may have flaws which we are all aware of and he is quite open about it, but please, this is not the right way. You are being seen as desperate. Play fair and square, and not do some cheap publicity stunt as you have done twice during the past decade.

And for that certain network who solely aired the ads, shame on you. You are a disgrace to the media industry, and the Filipino people you supposed to serve. No wonder why you were forcibly shut during martial law.

(These are my personal opinions.)

Posted on May 5, 2016 Posted in [Uncategorized](#) [Leave a comment](#)

RODRIGO DUTERTE: **BAGONG SIMULA** **PARA SA** **ATING BANSA**



Noong Lunes, Mayo 9, 2016, nagdaos tayo ng halalang pangkalahatan, kung saan magluluklok tayo ng mga bagong pinuno, mula sa mga siyudad, lalawigan, at sa mga pinakamataas na posisyon sa ating bansa. Naging mainit ang kampanya, maraming mga naibatong putik, maraming pagkakaibigan ang nasira dahil sa pagkakaiba ng opinyon, subalit nanaig pa rin ang pagkakaisa sa pamamagitan ng balota.

Naging malinaw ang resulta: pinili ng halos 38.6% (ayon sa pinakahuling datos) ng mga rehistradong mga botante si Mayor

Rodrigo Roa Duterte, ang naging alkalde ng siyudad ng Davao sa loob ng 22 taon.

Bagamat wala pang opisyal na datos ang Comelec (at magsisimula pa lang ang opisyal na bilangan ng Kongreso na minamandato ng Saligang Batas), sa laki ng lamang niya sa kanyang mga katungali ay malinaw na malinaw na siya nga ang susunod na pangulo ng ating bansa.

Sa kabila nito, hindi pa rin malinaw kung ano nga ba ang mga maaaring magbago sa oras na pormal nang manumpa si Duterte bilang ating pangulo. Matatandaan natin na sa panahon ng kampanya, mga maanghang (at kung minsan pa nga'y kontrobersyal na nakaakit ng atensyon mula sa international media) na mga pananalita, kagaya na lamang ng mga pagbabantang nagiging madugo ang kanyang panunungkulan dahil sa matigas niyang paninindigan laban sa krimen, droga, at katiwalian. Mayroon din siyang mga seryosong mga panukala, gaya na lamang ng pagsusulong ng pederalismo (o pagbibigay kapangyarihan sa mga lalawigan sa pagpapatupad ng mga programang pangkaunlaran at siyang tatapos sa kaguluhan sa Mindanao), pakikipag-usap sa mga rebeldeng grupo, at pagsusulong ng konstruktibong usapan sa South China Sea. Bukod sa mga nabanggit, ay wala pa tayong naririnig.

Pero sa isang di pangkaraniwang pagkakataon, nakita natin ang isang kakaibang Duterte na lingid sa marami, ang kanyang malambot na pagkatao. Noong gabi ng paglabas ng mga resulta, dumako siya sa puntod ng kanyang ina. Humihingi ng tulong.

Sa mga sumunod na araw ay narinig na natin mula sa kanya ang ilan sa mga panukala niya: ang pagpapatupad ng curfew para sa mga menor de edad mula alas-10 ng gabi, pagbabawal sa pagbebenta ng alak mula ala-1 ng umaga, at pagbabawal sa paninigarilyo sa mga pampublikong lugar. Nailabas na rin niya ang ilan sa mga tututukan ng kaniyang papasok na administrasyon, gaya ng muling pagbuhay sa parusang bitay, pagpapalawig sa conditional cash transfer program, pagtanggali sa 60-40 provision na balakid sa foreign investments, at marami pang iba.

Marami ang natutuwa, marami rin ang umaangal. Marami ang nagsasabi na magbubunsod ito ng lalo pang pag-unlad ng ating

bansa at sa ikapapayapa ng bayan, marami rin ang nangangambang baka maging mitsa ito ng pagbabalik sa isang diktadura.

Sinabi na ng kanilang kampo sa kanilang mga kritiko na bigyan ng pagkakataon ang papasok na administrasyon para maipatupad nila ang kanilang mga programa.

Kagagaling lamang natin sa isang mainit na kampanya, at minabuti nilang agad na mag-abot ng kamay para sa kanilang naging mga kaaway.

Ngayong nakapagdesisyon na tayo, kailangan natin itong isaalang-alang. Naghangad tayo ng tunay na pagbabago, ngayon na ang pagkakataon na tayo ay magkaisa. Alam nating marami pa tayong pag-aalinlangan. Ang iba naman, mistulang sa kanya na lamang inaasa ang lahat.

Tandaan, hindi niya magagawa ito lahat ng isang bagsakan lang. Kailangan niya ng pakikiisa ng taumbayan. Hindi rin tama na hindi lang natugunan ang kanyang mga pangako ay mawawalan na tayo ng gana, o kaya nama'y batikos lang nang batikos. Iyan ang bumubuhay sa demokrasya.

Ipanalangin natin na ito na nga ang bagong simula para sa isang magandang kinabukasan na ating inaasam. At tandaan natin na ang pagbabago ay nagsisimula sa atin.

Posted on May 16, 2016 Posted in [Uncategorized](#) [Leave a comment](#)

FINALLY! PINANSIN **NA RIN ANG** **STATE MEDIA!**



Pagkatapos umani ng iba't ibang reaksiyon ang mga komento ni President-elect Rodrigo Duterte ukol sa mga media killings noong May 31, 2016, na maging mitsa para manawagan ng boycott ang international organization na Reporters Without Borders sa PH media (na hindi sinunod ng KBP at NUJP), minabuti na lamang niya na idaan na lamang sa PTV 4 ang kanyang mga pahayag para makaiwas sa miscommunication, at dahil dito, lumaki bigla ang interes ng publiko sa istasyong ito na matagal nang hindi napagtutuunan ng pansin dahil sa kakulangan ng pondo at political will at dahil sa malakas na impluwensya ng mga pribadong media outlets gaya ng GMA-7, TV5, at ABS-CBN. Bago tayo magpatuloy, ano nga ba ang PTV 4?

Ang PTV 4 o People's Television Network ay ang pangunahing himpilang pantelebisyon na pag-aari ng pamahalaan, at ang pangunahing layunin nito ay ilapit ang pamahalaan sa mamamayan. Nagsimula itong magsahimpapawid noong 1974, dalawang taon matapos ipasara ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos ang ABS-CBN. Ginamit ng crony na si Roberto Benedicto (may-ari ng RPN 9 at IBC 13) ang channel 2 (at naging BBC 2), at ang channel 4 naman ay napasakamay ng gobyerno ang channel 4 at nakilala ito sa tawag na Government Television (GTV-4). Noong 1980, ito ay pinangalanang Maharlika Broadcasting System (MBS) at nagsimula na ring magbroadcast sa color, pinakahuli sa 5 istasyon noon.

Noong kasagsagan ng People Power Revolution, ang compound nito sa Bohol Avenue (na ngayong headquarters ng ABS-CBN) ay nilusob ng mga rebeldeng sundalo at ang mga pasilidad nito ay ginamit ng oposisyon para himukin ang tao na sumama sa pag-aaklas laban sa pamahalaang Marcos, at nakilala na ito sa bansag na People's Television. Matapos tumakas ang pamilya Marcos patungo sa Hawaii at pormal nang naluklok sa pwesto si Pangulong Corazon Aquino, isinoli sa mga Lopez ang channel 2, samantalang ang Channel 4 ay nanatili sa poder ng pamahalaan upang maging opisyal na istasyon ng pamahalaan.

Sa mga sumunod na taon, nakilala ang PTV sa mga pag-cover nito sa mga mahahalagang sporting events tulad ng Southeast Asian games at ng Olympics, at sa mga mahahalagang yugto sa ating kasaysayan gaya ng APEC Summit sa Subic Bay noong 1996. Naging mahalaga rin ang ginampanan nito para sa pagpapalawak ng kaalaman ng mga mag-aaral sa pamamagitan ng CONSTEL.

Noong 1992, sa panunungkulan ni Pangulong Cory Aquino naipasa ang Republic Act 7306 kung saan nailatag ang kanilang charter na noong 2013 ay inamyendahan ni Pangulong Noynoy Aquino matapos malagdaan ang Republic Act 10390 kung saan pinahihintulutan na itong makipagsabayan sa mga naglalakihang private-owned media outlets (ABS-CBN, GMA 7, TV5) at binibigyan ito ng karagdagang P5 bilyong pondo.

Ngayon, sa kabila ng mga naibigay natin na profile kung ano ang PTV, bakit ngayon lang pinansin? Ito ay dahil sa persepsyon ng mamamayan na ito ay propaganda lamang ng pamahalaan dahil ang ilan sa mga programa nito ay naglalayon na bigyang kabatiran ang mga manonood sa mga programang isinusulong ng mamamayan, at sa lawak ng impluwensya ng tatlong private media firms ay nagiging masikip na ang labanan at napapagiwanan ang mga mas maliliit na istasyon.

At dahil sa desisyon ng president-elect Duterte na idaan na lamang sa PTV 4 ang kanyang mga pahayag, dumami bigla ang nagkainteres dito. Mabuti na lamang daw na may istasyon ang gobyerno na makakapagbalita ng maayos na di gaya ng mainstream media na kanilang binabatikos dahil sa animo'y "bias".

Kamakailan lamang ay naitalaga sa Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), ang ahensya na may hawak sa PTV 4 na siya ring humahawak sa iba pang media assets ng pamahalaan ang broadcaster na si Martin Andanar. Agad na nailatag sa kanyang agenda na pagbutihin pa ang PTV 4 at maging kagaya ng BBC. Nasabi rin niya sa isang interview na:

"Sayang naman kasi. If you check out UK, may BBC [British Broadcasting Corp.]. Merong CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corp.] sa Canada, may PBS [Public Broadcasting Service] sa Amerika, may ABC [Australian Broadcasting Corp.] sa Australia, at ang gaganda ng

kanilang public broadcasting service eh. Bakit tayo hindi? Bakit tayo, bulok?”

Para maging patas naman tayo, nailatag ng kasulukyang administrasyon ang mga pundasyon para sa isang epektibong medium para ilapit sa mamamayan ang pamahalaan, ngayong malapit na ang pagpapalit ng administrasyon, makakaasa na siguro ang marami na sawang-sawa na sa paulit-ulit na mga teleserye at puro tsismis at sensationalism na nakikita ng marami sa mainstream media tungo sa isang maayos na public broadcaster na siyang magtutuon ng pansin pagpapalawak ng impromasyon at magbibigay boses sa sambayanan.

Sana nga ay maging kahanay na tayo ng maraming bansa gaya ng Japan, Australia, UK, Canada, atbp. na ang public broadcasters ang siyang pinagkakatiwalaan ng mamamayan.

Sa media man, at maging sa kabuuan, talaga ngang *change is coming*.

Posted on [June 9, 2016](#) Posted in [Uncategorized](#) Tagged [Martin Andanar](#), [media](#), [People's Television Network](#), [PTV 4](#), [public broadcasting](#), [Rodrigo Duterte](#) [5 Comments](#)

5 THOUGHTS ON “**FINALLY! PINANSIN NA RIN ANG STATE MEDIA!**”



1. **[TIMOWP17](#)** SAYS:
[JUNE 9, 2016 AT 12:55 PM](#)

Wow, Josh. I think your topic will have a differnt sentiment on my own Turf. I am currently clipping news related to this and it will be uploaded this July.

Anyway, watch out for the Inauguration Insight this coming June 19.

Like

REPLY



1. **RUSSIAJIMENEZ1998 SAYS:**
JUNE 9, 2016 AT 12:56 PM

something quite critical? yeah, I'll watch out for that.

Like

REPLY



2. **RUSSIAJIMENEZ1998 SAYS:**
JUNE 9, 2016 AT 12:56 PM

paano ba naman kasi, ngayon lang pinansin na para bang ngayon lang nalaman.

Like

REPLY



3. **OVERHEARD SAYS:**
JUNE 9, 2016 AT 1:10 PM

That will be a great lecture for “dummies” and the so-called trools na ngaoyng lang napansin na may PTV 4 NA PALA

Like

REPLY



1. **RUSSIAJIMENEZ1998 SAYS:**
JUNE 9, 2016 AT 1:10 PM

kaya nga eh. sheesh

Like

PASUKAN NA NAMAN.. HAYS.

Bilis naman ng panahon, oo. June na. Pasukan na naman. Siguro naman lumamig na mga ulo ninyo matapos kayo ma-beastmode sa eleksyon. Bati na ba kayo ng kaibigan mong nang-F.O (friendship over) sa iyo? Natuloy ba lakad niyo ng mga bes mo? Nabitin ka ba sa mga napuntahan mong resort, beach resort, o kung ano man? Excited ka na ba dahil marami kang maikukwento, o nayayamot ka dahil maaga ka na naman ng gising?

Pipilia ka ng mahaba para sa mga kung ano-anong requirements na kakailanganin,, tapos yung iba mong friends lilipat na pala kahit di pa ganon katagal ang inyong pinagsamahan.

Tsaka magpapayong na at jacket eh paano? Tag-ulan na, habagat na.

At least naman ano may baon ka na, makakaipon ka, makaka-gala ka. May sulyao ka ulit kay crush.

Makikita mo na naman si “bestfriend” at maiinis ka na naman.

Wala eh, ganyan talaga.

Nako, basta, good luck, best wishes.

Posted on June 9, 2016Posted in [Uncategorized](#)[Leave a comment](#)

IBC 13, SANA PANSININ NIYO RIN

Notice: Sana mapagtuunan din ito ng pansin dahil malaki ang papel na ginagampanan ng media sa paghubog sa ating pagka-Pilipino.

Kagabi nakausap ko ang isa sa mga reporters ng government-sequestered IBC 13 na 30 taon nang naghihintay sa privatization. Marami na ang kanilang pinagdaanan, maraming palabas at artista ang nawala sa kanila, maraming beses nang hindi nabigyan ng sweldo at benepisyo, at maraming administrasyon na ang lumipas pero heto pa rin sila.



🔍 Search

**IBC 13 Fans Community**

Sir Jess, paano yan.. Noong January inaprubahan na ni PNoy yung privatization sa inyo na may floor price na P1.97 billion. Sabi raw April daw ilalabas ang invitation to bid pero natabunan ng eleksyon.. ngayong si Martin Andanar ay uupong PCOO chief under Du30.. they are keen on strengthening PTV but sa IBC ang nasabi lang nila is to sell at a higher price to pay for the benefits and back wages.

2 hours ago • Like

**Jess Caduco**

sad story is someone's not working his homework. apparently the aquino admin cant fulfil its promise to privatize the company before the end of aquino's term. we are again at the mercy of the duterte admin but just ...



Search



matutupad pa. God knows!

28 minutes ago · Like



IBC 13 Fans Community

it's either they privatize you or panindigan na lang nila ang pinasok nila. the government can break the duopoly ABS-CBN and GMA has on the market by just increasing subsidies and being aggressive. kesa naman maghintay na lamang for a bidder. total naman PTV is being used primarily for news.. San Miguel is interested but sa tagal ng bid process parang wala lang eh..

22 minutes ago · Like



Jess Caduco

The govt has its own govt station ang ptv4 under the law isa lang ang dapat sa govt. Well very obvious naman kung bakit awaw na hitawan and



🔍 Search

**IBC 13 Fans Community**

gawin nalang formal diba? pass a law (kung pwede). detrimental na rin kasi sa viewing public. no programs to air, no viewers. no viewers, no bidders. no bidders, no pay.

19 minutes ago · Like

**Jess Caduco**

Correct. At alam mo sino kawawa ang mga empleyado na nagsakripisyo for a very long time now. Iba namatay nalang di pa nakuha retirement pay nila.

18 minutes ago · Like

**IBC 13 Fans Community**

oo nga po. employees na nagpagod pero imbes na magbunga eh nasasayang lang. underpaid na, nahuhuli pa.

(Noong 2014, bumuo kami ng aming mga kaibigan ng isang munting FB page para makatulong dahil nga sa isa sa mga problema ng IBC 13 ay ang kakulangan ng social media presence.)

Paano tayo humantong sa ganito? Noong 70s, 80s, 90s at early 2000s ay nakilala ang IBC 13 sa mga programa na masasabi natin na parang kagaya na ng mga nakikita ng karamihan ngayon sa ABS-CBN, GMA, at TV5, mga cartoon, sitcoms, game shows, atbp.

Dahil nga sa hawak ng gobyerno, ibig sabihin kada palit ng administrasyon ay magpapalit na rin ng management (na sabihin nating wala pang karanasan sa mass media) at sa dami ng mga problema ng bayan ay napapabayaan na. Sobrang napabayaan na na umabot sa puntong TV shopping at sabong na palabas. Isama mo pa mga utang at unpaid benefits. Sino ba naman gaganahan diba? At halos monopolisado na ng ABS at GMA ang merkado.

Ngayon, palit na naman ng administrasyon. Noong January, nagpasa na ng batas si PNoy na isasapribado na raw (may presyong P1.977 billion, laki diba?) at ilalabas sa Abril ang invitation to bid (natabunan na ng eleksyon).

(So far si Ramon Ang at Eric Canoy ng RMN pa lang interesado magbid).

Ngayong may bagong uupo, at ang kamag-anak nila sa Channel 4 ay pinansin na at pagagandahin, sana ito rin. Nakakasira rin kasi sa interes ng publiko. Yung alam mo nang wala na ngang kwenta mga palabas pero wala kang choice pero sila pa rin panonoorin mo kasi walang kumpetisyon. Wala ka ring magawa, wala kang pera magproduce ng sarili mong programa. Di ka makahingi ng pera dahil di naman ikaw ang main station. Problema ano?

Sana kahit paano, magawan ng paraan. Maglagay kayo balita sa tanghali, mga replay ng lumang palabas.

Pero heto mas maganda: PAG WALANG GUSTO BUMILI, KESA NAMAN MAGSARA, PANINDIGAN NIYO NA LANG. GOBYERNO NA MISMO MAGBREAK SA MONOPOLYA, PARANG SA IBANG BANSANG. KAYA NGA PUBLIC BROADCASTING DIBA? Mas maganda yun, para di na puro tae palabas sa TV.

Pero di naman natin hawak ang bagay na yan, maghintay na lang tayo sa kung ano mangyayari. For the interest of their hardworking employees and the general public. Magmasid na lang muna tayo.

Posted on [June 10, 2016](#) Posted in [Uncategorized](#) Tagged [broadcasting](#), [du30](#), [intercontinental broadcasting corporation](#), [media](#), [privatization](#), [public broadcasting](#) [3 Comments](#)

3 THOUGHTS ON “**IBC 13, SANA PANSININ NIYO RIN**”



1. **TIMOWP17** SAYS:

[JUNE 10, 2016 AT 7:40 PM](#)

Very informal pero may point but watch out for my version — a consolidated sermon next month.

P.S. Don't show this to Kelvin Oloroso. He's bitter.

Like

[REPLY](#)



1. **RUSSIAJIMENEZ1998** SAYS:

[JUNE 10, 2016 AT 10:55 PM](#)

baka pa may masabi. haha

Like

[REPLY](#)

2. *[Pingback: Anyare, IBC 13? Quo vadis, DBS 35? | Timow's Turf](#)*

"AKING ADHIKA, MAKITA KANG SAKDAL LAYA"

"Ibon mang may layang lumipad

kulungin mo at umiiyak,

*Bayan pa kayang sakdal dilag ang di magnasang
makaalpas,*

Pilipinas kong minumutya,

Pugad ang luha ko't dalita,

Aking adhika, makita kang sakdal laya"

-Bayan Ko

Ito ang mga titik mula sa makabayang awiting "Bayan Ko". Baka pinagtataka ninyo bakit ito ang tema ng post na ito?

Bukas kasi, gugunitain natin muli ang ika-118 na taon magmula nang ideklara natin ang ating kalayaan mula sa pananakop ng mga Kastila. Marami na tayong pinagdaanan bilang isang bansa, mula sa isang kalayaang pansamantala nating tinamasa dahil wala tayong kamalay-malay na meron palang bagong mananakop (ang Estados Unidos) na darating sa ating bansa at nagdala sa atin ng mga bagong impluwensyang hanggang ngayon ay dala-dala natin at sinanay tayo na magkaroon ng sarili nating gobyerno, nasakop tayo

sa loob ng tatlong taon ng isang kapitbahay na may malaking ambisyon (mga Hapones), pagkatapos ng sampung taon na pagsasanay ay yung mga Kano ay pinagbigyan na rin tayo sa wakas, ay pinagbigyan na rin tayo na mamahala sa mga sarili natin, at nang magprotesta tayo sa lansangan para muling ibalik ang kalayaan na inalis sa atin sa loob ng halos isang dekada tapos makikita lang natin na imbes na mawala ay lalong lumala ang mga problema ng bayan, siguro tinatanong niyo (at least sa may pakialam), MALAYA NGA BA TALAGA TAYO?

Oo. Sabihin na natin. May internet naman na kung saan ay makakapagpahayag tayo ng mga saloobin natin at nagkakaroon na tayo ng pakialam sa mga bagay na sa isang normal na sirkumstansya ay dedma lang (minsan nga lang mabagal ang internet, naka-data ka lang, binlock ka ng bestfriend mo dahil lang sa magkaiba kayo ng opinyon, o kaya'y kung anu-ano na lang nababasa mo sa Facebook at nagpapaniwala ka naman agad kahit di mo tinignan ng mabuti kung totoo ba), maraming mga partido dyan na may iba't ibang paniniwala (nagbabalimbingan nga lang kapag eleksyon), may media tayo (basura nga lang minsan), at kung anu-ano pang mga nakikita natin na laganap sa mga demokratikong lipunan, pero tila nababadtrip tayo (kasi trapik, mausok, sira ang tren, mataas ang tax, kurap ang gobyerno, maraming snatcher at manyakis, nagsusumikip ang Metro Manila pero ang mga probinsya napapag-iwanan pa rin). May pag-iisip tayo na "magpasakop na lang ulit tayo" o kaya naman ay "martial law na lang sana ulit". Eh wala eh, nandito na tayo eh.

Bago tayo ngumawa dyan, isipin muna natin: siguro minura na tayo ni Heneral Luna. Siguro tinaga na tayo ng itak ni Bonifacio. Ang layo na ng narating natin. Aatras na naman ba tayo? Eh di parang napunta lang sa wala yung mga pinaglaban nila. Andyan ka na nga eh.

Buti na lang medyo naitatama na ang mga mali. Nagkakamalay na rin tayo. Medyo sablay nga lang, pero patungo na rin dyan.

Blockbuster nga yung Heneral Luna eh. May mga sites na kung saan ang mga nababasa mo sa history books (minsan nga lang kwentong barbero, alam niyo na kung saan niyo mababasa ang mga yun), at katatapos lang ng eleksyon at mataas ang expectation niyo sa binoto niyo (mamaya dyan magsisi na naman kayo, wag na uy).

Kahit sabihin nating inaaabuso nga lang ng iba dyan yung mga karapatan natin, pero sana sariwain natin bukas araw na ito kung ano ang mga naging paghihirap ng mga bayani natin para maging malaya na tayo. At di lang kay Duterte ang change ano, sa atin yun. Magsisimula sa atin yun. Start with the basics, wag na magtapon sa kanto, wag na tumawid sa di naman dapat tawiran, wag na iihi sa pader, at kung ano ano pa.

Magtulong tulong tayo para ang demokrasya natin, maging totoo na. Talagang magiging sakdal laya nga tayo. Laya para makapagtayo tayo ng isang matino, maayos, maunlad, at mapayapang bansa.

O, maligayang araw ng kalayaan, at enjoyin ang weekend!

Posted on [June 11, 2016](#) Posted in [Philippine Politics](#) Tagged [araw ng kalayaan](#), [bayan ko](#), [independence day](#), [june 12 1898](#), [kalayaan](#), [philippines](#), [pilipinas](#) [Leave a comment](#)



OPEN LETTER TO AMERICANS

Dear Americans,

It has been disappointing that the outcome of the primaries didn't turn out the way we would have wanted to. You're stuck with two disliked frontrunners, one because of his abrasive and unpredictable behavior (as well as controversial statements), and one because of her issues on credibility.

Good thing Bernie isn't giving up. As I've been following your elections all throughout, I must really say Bernie should have won (if

it weren't for that rigged system of superdelegates and reports of voter disenfranchisement).

But maybe, it's just about time that he breaks the two-party system to effect genuine change in American politics, because he has built the momentum to do just that.

We're watching you because the outcome will influence your standing in the world.

Yours truly, this writer from the Philippines.

Posted on [June 12, 2016](#)Posted in [World Politics](#)Tagged [us presidential elections](#) [Leave a comment](#)

ORLANDO SHOOTING

INCIDENT: MY TAKE



Everybody is shocked when the news of an ISIS-inspired gunman went on a shooting spree at a night club taking 50 people dead with 53 injured, and this incident is dubbed as “the worst mass shooting incident in America’s history” and the “deadliest terrorist attacks on American soil” since 9-11. Before we continue, let us send our condolences and regards to those of the victims and their families.

Now, according to sources we have gathered, it has been told that the suspect was already on the FBI’s person of interest in 2013 and 2014 but still hasn’t considered a threat, he had no prior criminal record, and legally purchased two firearms prior to the attack.

We will not delve into the details of the attack to make this short, but we’ll leave a simple message.

There is no room for hate, for violence, for fear. Be vigilant, be careful. And never let hate rein in our hearts, regardless of what we stand for and what we believe in.

That's all for now, thank you.

Posted on June 13, 2016 Posted in World Politics Tagged mass shooting, my take, orlando, orlando incident, orlando mass shooting, orlando massacre, orlando shooting [Leave a comment](#)

TAIWAN-PH RELATIONS IN 2016: A POSSIBLE THAWING?

There could be a potential thawing of relations between the Philippines and Taiwan this 2016, given the fact that both countries held presidential elections, won by Rodrigo Duterte and Tsai Ing-wen, respectively, and the overall situation in the region which was marked by increased Chinese activity in the South China Sea/West Philippine Sea, thus straining relations with practically all countries surrounding the said body of water, including the Philippines which filed an arbitration case in the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

(READ: <http://tankler.com/taiwan-president-wants-to-prioritize-good-relation-to-philippines-6181>)

There are certain issues hampering the growth of relations between the two, such as an overlapping EEZ (which has resulted with a fatal shooting incident in 2013 which resulted in tensions which have since subsided and efforts have been made to settle disputes.

(For your reference, read these links: <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2015/11/19/1523686/philippines-signs-fishing-agreement-taiwan>

<http://www.asianews.network/content/taiwan-philippines-sign-marine-patrol-cooperation-pact-4049>)

Manila and Taipei has maintained informal economic and cultural ties, however, with the present situation in foreign relations, there should be much caution, and let's just all hope for the best (that is, the ITLOS will eventually side with our case thus giving us more leverage in negotiating with China).

Posted on [June 16, 2016](#) Posted in [Philippine Politics](#), [World Politics](#) Tagged [itlos](#), [philippines](#), [Rodrigo Duterte](#), [south china sea](#), [spratly islands](#), [taiwan](#), [tsai ing-wen](#), [unclos](#), [west philippine sea](#) [Leave a comment](#)

BREXIT AND ITS **POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS**

Yesterday was a truly historic moment for Britain and Europe when a referendum on whether the United Kingdom should leave the European Union resulted in a win for the leave camp, which got a 52% of the vote.

Despite living in a country almost 10,000 kilometers (or 6,000 miles) away from the UK, we're fully aware of the impact it could make.

The main focus of the campaign is the bureaucracy, immigration policies with which the EU has problem in dealing with, and the money which the UK sends to the EU.

We're going to list them to make it organized:

1. Pound losing its value to levels not seen since 1985 (with the pound losing its value remittances of the OFWs will take a severe hit)
2. Resignation of David Cameron and the potential rise of anti-immigration UK Independence Party (to readers from the UK please correct my if I'm wrong), whose leader Nigel Farage led the campaign to leave (maybe Boris Johnson)
3. On the Scottish side, the Scottish National Party could demand a second independence vote (Scotland last held an independence vote on 2014 and voted overwhelmingly for stay in the recent referendum)
4. It could trigger a global recession (UK is the second-largest economy in the EU, 5th in the world)
5. Rise of other Eurosceptic parties such as France's National Front, Germany's PEGIDA, and others and could trigger a domino effect
6. The UK might have a hard time accessing the Common Market with much of its exports going to the EU

UK will not immediately leave after this referendum, it will trigger a 2-year complicated process. And even now, we could all feel the short-term effects. We must say, the United Kingdom made a hard decision (for those in the remain camp it will be negative, those in the leave camp arguing that the UK could be better off), but there's no turning back.

Brace yourselves, it's a different world now.

Posted on [June 25, 2016](#) Posted in [Uncategorized](#), [World Politics](#) Tagged [angela merkel](#), [Brexit](#), [David Cameron](#), [britain](#), [economy](#), [eu](#), [European Union](#), [Nigel Farage](#), [pound sterling](#), [Scotland](#), [scottish independence](#), [uk leaves the eu](#), [UKIP](#), [United Kingdom](#), [what is brexit](#) [2 Comments](#)

2 THOUGHTS ON “**BREXIT AND ITS**”

POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS



1. **TIMOWP17** SAYS:

JUNE 25, 2016 AT 4:35 AM

Change came indeed. Like the Philippines, how extensive is the change? Radically and variably. But we are probably not the two of the countries that faces the domino effect, Spain tomorrow and the United States in November.

Liked by 1 person

REPLY



1. **RUSSIAJIMENEZ1998** SAYS:

JUNE 25, 2016 AT 4:44 AM

bukas na pala yung sa Spain. how time flies

Like

#CHEXIT: ANO NA NGAYON ANG GAGAWIN NATIN?

Kahapon, July 12, ay nailabas na ng Permanent Court of Arbitration ang ruling nito na kung saan ay pinanigan nito ang Pilipinas, na siyang malinaw na indikasyon na walang legal na basehan ang 9-dash line ng China. Pero matapos mailabas ang ruling na ito ay

iginiit ng China na hindi nila susundin ang desisyong ito ng korte at nagbabala sa mga maaari pang mangyari. Binalaan naman ng Amerika at Japan ang lahat na magpakita ng pagkahinahon para di pa lumala ang tensyong bumabalot.

Ngayon, ano na ang pwede nating gawin pagkatapos nito?

Matatandaan ninyo na isa sa mga foreign policy agendas ni Presidente Duterte ang normalisasyon sa ating pakikipag-ugnayan sa China, at ang pagtulong nito sa mga infrastructure projects gaya na lamang ng railways, at ang maaaring hatian sa natural resources (kung saan napuna dito si DFA Sec. Perfecto Yasay).

Sa ngayon ay pinag-aaralan ng pamahalaan ang mga magiging hakbang nito, subalit kailangan pa rin nating mag-ingat.

Kung sa perspektiba ng China natin pagbabasehan (yan ay ang bilateral talks), ay magkakaroon tayo ng malaking advantage. Maaari rin nating pag-ibayuhin ang ating kapasidad pang-militar (imumungkahi kong bumili mula sa Russia, dahil sa kalidad at magiging epektibo itong pang-deter sa China dahil magdadalawang-isip na ito sa mga susunod nilang hakbang dahil nakikipag-ugnayan tayo sa kanilang major partner, gaya na lang ng ginawa ng Vietnam na bumibili ng armas sa Russia at kamakailan lang ay pinagbuti rin nito ang relasyon sa Amerika).

Hindi lang Pilipinas ang makikinabang dito, pati na rin ang mga iba pang claimants gaya ng Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, at pati na rin ang Indonesia na nahihila na rin.

Pero dahil nga sa matigas ang ulo ng China, ay talagang doble ingat nga kailangan natin, lalo na nga't isa itong major trading partner ng Pilipinas at ng mga claimant. Ang tanging paraang maiisip natin ay kung, magkaroon ng balasahan sa Partido Komunista kung saang mga mahihinahon at bukas na pag-iisip ang mananaig.

At sa Pilipinas, kailangan na talaga nating pagbutihin ang ating defense capabilities dahil sa hindi tayo tiyak sa kung ano ang mangyayari.

Posted on [July 13, 2016](#) Posted in [Philippine Politics](#), [World Politics](#) Tagged [#chexit](#), [arbitration](#), [south china sea](#), [unclos](#), [west philippine sea](#) [Leave a comment](#)

COUP IN TURKEY: MY TAKE (IN 150 WORDS)



(Photo credit: CNN)

Judging from what we see right now, it seems that the attempt to overthrow Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan has failed.

In an observation of the developments, it appears that the coup was poorly planned, as evidenced by the short takeovers of state broadcaster TRT and the Turkish affiliate of CNN.

They also had a hard time dealing with the mass of people who heeded the call of the president to take to the streets in defiance of

the orders of the so-called “Peace Council” to obey the curfew they have imposed.

To add to that, the opposition was not keen on supporting the said coup.

Erdogan may have succeeded in foiling the coup, but this will severely test him if he can further consolidate his power, amid concerns that he is becoming increasingly autocratic, and alienating most of the country’s erstwhile allies.

Let’s wait how things will unfold next.

Posted on [July 16, 2016](#)Posted in [World Politics](#)Tagged [turkey coup](#) [Leave a comment](#)

NICE ATTACKS: MY TAKE (IN 150 WORDS)



(Photo credit: BBC)

I know it's a bit late to talk about this but let me share you my thoughts.

And before we start, condolences with the families who died in the attack, and solidarity with the French.

It seems to be while everybody was celebrating Bastille Day (the celebration of the Storming of the Bastille, with fireworks displays), a man driving a truck deliberately drove through the Promenade des Anglais, killing 84 people and injuring over 300.

The perpetrator, Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, a Tunisian, was killed by police in a shootout, and was clueless as to who was responsible.

Until now, when the Islamic State claimed responsibility. This has been the third in a row, after the Charlie Hebdo attacks in January 2015, and the Bataclan shootings in November 2015.

I don't know what to say, but it sure is raising a lot of concerns.

Just be vigilant, stay safe, and never be overcome by hate.

Posted on [July 17, 2016](#)Posted in [World Politics](#)Tagged [bastille day attacks](#), [france](#), [nice attacks](#) [Leave a comment](#)

THE LACK OF REGIONAL PRESENCE AMONG OUR NATIONAL BROADCAST ERS

Our major television broadcasters are known for their wide reach influence, that their programs are seen throughout the country via relay stations or satellite transmissions, their programs gets the large chunk of audience shares and advertising revenue, but there is one noticeable problem, that is the lack of presence in the regions as mostly all programs are being produced by the main stations in Metro Manila, though some are shot in other locations across the country (or in some cases, abroad).

This has posed a particular problem in the scheduling of some programs, which has to be preempted or aired on a one-day delay basis.

In the United States, network affiliates have the option of scheduling some programs outside the prescribed time slots, thus giving them room for their own scheduling, such as newscasts, or syndicated programming (i.e. those produced by third-party entities or

production outfits owned by the network). But as in our case where most of them are owned-and-operated by the networks, this poses significant problems.

There is also significant opposition as some would argue that there will be a lack of a “unified” scheduling as slots are being preempted for regional programming, and to be honest, I think this is an invalid argument. Being a diverse country means that television programming has to reflect that reality.

Add to that is the facilities are not at par with the national station, which hampers news-gathering capabilities and not being able to catch up with modern standards.

The solution for that is to seriously invest in their regional stations (but given GMA 7 has since limited its regional stations to Cebu, Davao, and Dagupan to save costs this will be going to be a problem, at least for now). That means, better facilities, like better news gathering equipment, better studios, new satellite uplink systems, more OB vans or livepacks, high-definition cameras, so on, so forth.

The networks must also give room for regional opt-outs, and with that including the National Capital Region. To cite an example, Spanish public broadcaster Television Espanola reserves the 2pm slot to regional newscasts (including Madrid), and through livestreaming this is being replaced by the final half-hour of its breakfast news program Los desayunos de TVE (TVE Breakfast). If we do it here (and with ABS-CBN having their own regional TV Patrol versions since they started to invest in regional content since the 1990s, producing one for Mega Manila), that will free up the national newscasts’ airtime for news of genuine national importance, and thus will expose the audiences in Metro Manila to the diversity of this country and events happening outside the capital, and the regional audiences having to complain why contents of newscasts are full of crime stories mostly centered in the NCR.

In the morning hours, the problem centers on the national breakfast shows (ABS-CBN's Umagang Kay Ganda and GMA's Unang Hirit) being interrupted at 6:15 am to give way to regional breakfast programming. The solution I propose is limiting the running times to 2 hours (5:00-7:00), and schedule the regional breakfast show at 7am, as the dynamic of the regions is different from that of Manila.

There is also the need for a clean feed for the networks and devoting space for regional programs, so no one will ever have to cut abruptly to give way to regional programming (or missing out some programs), and even the opportunity to catch programs first before Manila does, also allowing them to charge advertising rates per region (thus increasing revenue).

Also setting up regional hubs will help, with choices of Baguio for Luzon, Cebu for the Visayas, or Davao for Mindanao.

These moves are radical and mostly costly, but in the long term we will see the pay off, and this will help the television industry in the Philippines grow and mature.

Having a unified broadcast schedule is not wrong, but the need to create a diversified scheduling dynamic will strengthen that idea as it will reflect on the reality that we are a nation of many cultures and languages and the need to build on that identity. It will not only help marketing strategy but will also help people recognize that your network truly cares for you, no matter where you are.

Posted on [July 18, 2016](#) Posted in [Philippine Media](#) Tagged [ABS-CBN](#), [carlo katigbak](#), [charo santos-concio](#), [felipe gozon](#), [gabby lopez](#), [GMA](#), [GMA Network](#), [manny pangilinan](#), [Philippine television](#), [philippines](#), [pinoy tv](#), [Regional Network Group](#), [Regional television](#), [TV5](#), [TVE 1](#) [Comment](#)

ONE THOUGHT ON “**THE LACK OF REGIONAL PRESENCE AMONG OUR NATIONAL BROADCASTERS**”



1. **YJMBPENNYFORYOURTHOUGHTS** SAYS:

JULY 22, 2016 AT 11:15 AM

Reblogged this on Penny for Your Thoughts by YJMB and commented:
Our national newscasts are seriously neglected as they give way to Metro Manila headlines tagged as “national stories”.

THE PEOPLE’S **BROADCASTING** **CORPORATION** **UNDER THE** **DUTERTE ADMINISTRATION**



2016
STATE OF THE
NATION ADDRESS
President Rodrigo Roa Duterte

PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS
EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE

“The bona fide media has always been
our partner for change.”

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte

July 25, 2016

   @PresidentialCom

#PartnerForChange #DuterteSONA

(Excerpt from the State of the Nation Address. Credits: Presidential Communications)

One of the key points of President Rodrigo Duterte’s first State of the Nation Address (SONA) is the creation of a new public broadcasting company which shall adhere to, among other things, modern international standards, and a truly independent broadcasting network.

We have discussed in the past the efforts of the new administration to address the woes of PTV 4 and how Presidential Communications

Sec. Martin Andanar intends to model PTV to that of the Australian, British, American, and Canadian public broadcasters.

The present set-up of our public broadcasting goes like this:

- The People's Television Network (PTNI) which was established in 1986 and formalized in 1992 through Republic Act 7306
- The Philippine Broadcasting Service (PBS) which was already existing and since 1933 and operates at present Radyo ng Bayan, Sports Radio, Radyo Magasin, Business Radio, and regional stations

Within 26 days, we have seen progress, albeit a few. Let us enumerate:

- The courtesy resignation of the entire board of directors, including GM Albert Bocobo, a holdover of the past administration. The resignation came in such a bad timing, as he was severely criticized by Bitag Live host Ben Tulfo over some statements which make it appear that Sec. Andanar "doesn't know how to do his job". After the said resignation, former TV5 executive Dino Apolonio was named new GM manager. Not much is heard about him, but thanks to research it has been revealed he had some experience in the United States. (It was previously stated that Charie Villa was being considered for the job though it was later retracted.) It was also revealed in the same statement that PTV is planning to install digital transmitters in Baguio, Naga, Iloilo, Cebu, Cotabato, and Davao.
- News programs were rebranded to simply PTV News, with a cleaner and smoother delivery of news. Its morning show was also renamed as Good Morning Pilipinas, as its previous title was a reminder to former president Noynoy Aquino's inaugural speech (*kayo ang boss ko, hence the program Good Morning Boss*).
- Its audio and video feed improved, so its streaming.
- Representatives from the BBC are set to visit the facilities of PBS and PTV

Now with the recent SONA, it has been revealed that the new administration is planning to do more than just that.

He called on Congress to pass a law to create the People's Broadcasting Corporation, merging the two entities into one, as well as the creation of specialty channels for the Lumad and Muslim communities and setting up of regional facilities in the Visayas and Mindanao. To quote the full text:

"To better manage public information, a law should be passed – I'm addressing Congress– to create the People's Broadcasting Corporation, replacing PTV-4, the government-run TV station, which now aims to replicate international government broadcasting networks. Teams from these international news agencies — I'd like to mention those interested BBC — are set to visit the country soon to train people from government-run channels to observe. Ito ang gusto ko — tutal pera naman ng tao — to observe editorial independence through innovative programs and intelligent treatment and analysis of news reports, as well as developments of national and international significance.

The government's Bureau of Broadcast Services, better known as the Radyo ng Bayan, shall undergo upgrading to make it financially viable and dependable for accurate and independent, and enlightening news and commentary. Radyo ng Bayan will be integrated with the PBC.

As we are presently setting up a Presidential Communications Satellite Office in Davao City, PBC will also put up broadcast hubs in the Visayas and Mindanao. Davao City will also be the first site of the first Muslim channel, to be called Salaam Television, and the first Lumad channel."

This will be a daunting task for the government stations to keep up with its mandate to serve and inform the people, which is already being hounded by lack of funding, the nature of Philippine media, and the perception that it they are being used as propaganda tools for the sitting president.

How will they do that? It is up to them, but as observers who are passionate on how Filipino media evolves, these are the options we look forward to:

- Create a constitutional commission to oversee operations and to ensure its mandate is being fulfilled, thus editorial independence is maintained
- Include the PBC in the General Appropriations Act, charge a licence fee through electric bills (which is unfeasible due to an addition to people's expenses and the Brits' own opposition to such a license fee, expect GMA's Felipe Gozon to block any move aimed to overhaul public broadcasting, *shut up na lang siya*)
- Overhaul of the facilities and equipment, not to mention transmission

We look forward that such a law is passed, despite knowing that the administration has other matters to attend to. But focusing on the development of public broadcast is essential so that it may help the President to convey to the public on how to change this country, and also help us make informed and involved in matters concerning our future.

Posted on [July 26, 2016](#) Posted in [Philippine Media](#) Tagged [Media ng Bayan](#), [People's Broadcasting Corporation](#), [People's Television Network](#), [Philippine Broadcasting Service](#), [philippines](#), [Presidential Communications Office](#), [PTV 4](#), [public broadcasting](#), [Radyo ng Bayan](#), [Rodrigo Duterte](#), [sona](#), [State of the Nation Address](#)
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ABS-CBN REGIONAL CHANNEL LAUNCHES TODAY



Viewers will now be able to catch a glimpse of the best of the country's sights, cuisine, and people as ABS-CBN Regional Channel (ARC) starts its initial telecasts today.

Programming consists of the content ABS-CBN produces for its regional audiences, such as local TV Patrol editions, Mag TV Na, Saturday public affairs shows, Kapamilya Mas Winner Ka, Agri Tayo Dito, radio dramas from MOR, movies dubbed in regional languages (Hunger Games dubbed in Cebuano, for example), morning shows, and the Kapamilya Caravans and telecasts of festivals.

This channel aims to celebrate the country's diversity and for its audiences remain connected with their roots and to discover new experiences (learning another language or a new vacation spot, for example).

ARC is available to Sky Direct (channel 14 nationwide) and Sky Cable (Channel 4 Mega Manila) and through streaming via iWant TV and Sky On Demand.

Posted on [August 1, 2016](#)Posted in [Philippine Media](#)Tagged [ABS-CBN](#), [abs-cbn regional channel](#), [abs-cbn regional network group](#), [arc](#), [sky cable](#), [sky direct](#) [Leave a comment](#)

BUWAN NG WIKANG PAMBANSA (PART 1): LANGUAGE VS. DIALECT

Over time, this has become a point of contention, and despite efforts to rectify this long-standing misnomer it is still being perpetuated by media and schools, that is calling all the major languages in the country (other than Tagalog) as “dialects”.

We shall dedicate this post in rebuking this narrative.

When we say it is a language, that is the tongue being spoken of that particular group of people (Tagalog, Ilokano, Kapampangan, Cebuano, Waray, etc.), while a dialect is a variant of the language being spoken (Batangas Tagalog vis-a-vis Manila Tagalog, Central Bikol and the other variants of the Bikol language, Cebuano of Cebu vis-a-vis Mindanao Cebuano).

We hope that this post shall help in clearing the clouds hovering over the horizon over this issue (should you have corrections, feel free to comment), and watch out for our second post in time for the celebration of the Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa.

Posted on August 6, 2016Posted in Philippine Politics, UncategorizedTagged [buwan ng wikang pambansa](#), [language vs. dialect](#), [philippine languages](#) 1 Comment

ONE THOUGHT ON “**BUWAN NG WIKANG PAMBANSA (PART 1): LANGUAGE VS. DIALECT**”

1. *Pingback: [Embracing language diversity in the Philippines – BANAT: The Blog Site](#)*

GNTV SHOULD HAVE HAD REGIONAL NEWS



With the ABS-CBN Regional Channel still in its infancy, let's take a look back at the time when GMA News TV should have had the opportunity to expose its regional newscasts to a larger nationwide audience.

In early 2014, GNTV began hinting that its four primary regional newscasts (Balitang Amianan, Ratsada, Balitang Bisdak, and Testigo) would be aired on the morning slots albeit on a one-day delayed basis, but in a surprising turn of events, it never had the chance to get off the ground, and since GNTV began filling its morning block with old action movies and reruns of GMA or QTV-produced programs (it did begin to air on its international edition, though). As for the Regional TV infrastructure, due to budget cuts and efforts to remain in the black, regional news became a less of a priority.

The point here is, GMA should have had seized the moment when it had the opportunity and had set its priorities straight. If GMA had prioritized the enhancement of its news-gathering capabilities (with their *Serbisyong Totoo* brand recognizable across the country) and building up GNTV as a strong news channel they wouldn't be in such a mess like this.

But with the present doldrums hounding the network, we can only hope that a new investor and a new set of competent executives will help turn their futures around.

Posted on [August 11, 2016](#)Posted in [Philippine Media](#), [Uncategorized](#)Tagged [abs-cbn regional channel](#), [Balitang Amianan](#), [Balitang Bisdak](#), [Balitang Ilokano](#), [Baretang Bikol](#), [felipe gozon](#), [GMA](#), [GMA Network](#), [GMA News](#), [GMA News TV](#), [GMA Regional News](#), [GMA Regional TV](#), [GNTV](#), [Isyu Ngayon](#), [QTV](#), [Ratsada](#), [Serbisyon Tootoo](#), [Testigo](#)
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THE SINGAPOREAN MODEL AND ITS APPLICABILITY IN THE FILIPINO SETTING



(Apologies for the quite low-quality capture of the iconic Merlion.)

In most political forums (most especially those advocating for a shift to a parliamentary form of government), you'll see how the Philippines is being compared to Singapore, from internet speeds, implementation of laws, how disciplined the people are, how modern the infrastructure is (road, rail, airport, etc.), the effective public transport system, to its political system. Many have also noticed the

comments of the late iconic statesman and former prime minister Lee Kuan Yew about the flaws of our system.

Along with these comparisons, many have also turned to nostalgia, reminiscing about “better times” during the 1960s and 1970s, and the never-ending debate on the legacies of former presidents Ferdinand Marcos and Corazon Aquino (please get over it, now!) on which direction the Philippines is heading or should have had headed (as they say, there’s no point if we just keep on fingerpointing and blame-gaming and just stick to the present and future).

Can we apply their system in the Philippines? Or perhaps take inspirations from Singapore and we just have to tweak them to fit in our setting? Culture settles in, so we have to adjust them according to our needs.

After an extensive observation on how they do things, we can conclude that we can do better.

We have more resources, more people. And despite affluence, Singaporeans don’t seem to be happy. We are a happy people, in good times or bad, which makes it exceptional.

It’s also just a matter of strong political will, and, of course, it will still rest on the people so we can achieve our desired results.

Posted on [August 18, 2016](#) Posted in [Philippine Politics](#), [World Politics](#) Tagged [ASEAN](#), [cory aquino](#), [duterte](#), [federalism](#), [ferdinand marcos](#), [lee hsien loong](#), [lee kuan yew](#), [Philippine Politics](#), [philippines](#), [reform](#), [Rodrigo Duterte](#), [singapore](#) [Leave a comment](#)

AN INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY



In light of the President's recent visits to the two major Asian powerhouses, China and Japan, we will highlight the Philippines' intentions to create an entirely new foreign policy and what it means to us and what more should be done.

You are all aware of the President's severe (and sometimes vulgar) criticisms towards the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations over their concerns about the rising death toll of the ongoing war on drugs.

Prior to his departure to Laos to attend the ASEAN Summit in Laos, his infamous "*putang ina, mumurahin talaga kita sa forum na yan*" (which was also grossly mistranslated to "son of a bitch") prompted US President Barack Obama to cancel his bilateral meeting with President Duterte.

Over time, he has also signaled intentions to break away from Washington's sphere of influence and instead pivot to China (which was his one of his campaign promises) and Russia (he has expressed his intentions to meet with President Vladimir Putin and has talked to Prime Minister Medvedev during the ASEAN Summit.)

He was able to bring home a combined \$24 billion worth of loans and investments and the Filipinos' return to fishing near the Scarborough Shoal which was halted since the 2012 standoff.

After visiting China, he went to Japan, talking to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and also bringing home \$19 billion worth of investments.

With these in mind, it seems that we are prioritizing our Asian neighbors and also making efforts to rely less on Washington.

Others have concerns that these developments may result in a drop of US aid, loss of US investments, or even result in a US-orchestrated regime change ops (which heaven forbid does not happen). [Duterte has also highlighted American sins in the PH during the period of 1898-1946, including but not limited to the Bud Dajo and Balangina massacres.]

Which then leads us to what we should do. Here are some of the proposals we would like to put forward:

- With the urging of the Russian ambassador, we formulate our wishlist so whatever assistance we may need from Russia, we receive it
- A pivot to Latin America will also help, despite economic hardships they are also seen as a new wave of superpowers, including Mexico and Brazil
- Meet with the new US president, be it Trump or Clinton and make clear of his intentions.

We're not expecting that these will be acted upon (in one way or another), but let's await of the developments and see where they are taking us.

Posted on [October 29, 2016](#) Posted in [Uncategorized](#) Tagged [Barack Obama](#), [China](#), [Donald Trump](#), [Hillary Clinton](#), [Japan](#), [Philippine independent foreign policy](#), [Rodrigo Duterte](#), [Russia](#), [Vladimir Putin](#), [War on Drugs](#), [west philippine sea](#), [Xi Jinping](#) [Leave a comment](#)

AND WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT HE

WOULD BECOME PRESIDENT

Days before the United States presidential elections, people were expecting that Donald Trump will have a very steep chance of winning the elections, as surveys showed his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton leading in most battleground states, and given his rhetoric against Latinos, Muslims, and other minorities he will have a very slim chance.

But the elections on November 8 showed a different path.

Early results showed Donald Trump leading both the popular vote (Clinton eventually took the lead but it's quite late) and the electoral vote, and with him winning the Rust Belt states of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin, he won as 45th president in a stunning upset.

This shocked many people around the world who were so confident he will have a very slim chance of winning given the controversial statements he has made and taking into consideration his background as a reality TV star and businessman with such a bad record.

So why did he win? He tapped into the frustrations of many Americans who felt the political establishment has failed them over the years and it's about time for a change. And what people saw in Clinton was she was an embodiment of the very same establishment. (*because of her e-mail scandals*).

Now that we have to deal with this reality, Donald Trump recently has sounded more conciliatory. He promised to be the president of

all Americans and while meeting with Barack Obama he sounded little less than the Trump who spearheaded the birther issue.

Regardless of these however, Trump's campaign has spearheaded a very hateful campaign which will not go away immediately, as it was also during the campaign period all sorts of racist and sexist attacks spread all over the place.

In foreign policy, at least, Trump would strike a non-interventionist line and try to negotiate with Russia, Iran, Mexico, EU, and others on a wide range of issues. And as for our country, at least Duterte wouldn't have to deal with someone who will egg him on the human rights issue which is pretty sensitive to him.

On the other hand, the Trump victory could have been avoided should the Democratic Party establishment listened to Bernie Sanders and didn't try to sabotage his chances of winning the nomination.

And now we have to face this reality, let's all just hope that the Trump in the White House would be a different one from the Trump during the campaign, otherwise, wish us all the best of luck and may we survive.

Posted on [November 11, 2016](#) Posted in [World Politics](#) Tagged [Donald Trump](#), [us presidential elections](#) [Leave a comment](#)

MY TAKE ON 2016

I have been inactive for a while, thanks to studies and the preference to voice out my opinions through my social media accounts and the tendency to forget, but let me give you my insights.

Are you tired with the bickering, and you just want to go on peacefully with your lives?

Wherever you are in the world, you have seen one political earthquake after another. Brexit, Trump, EJKs, you name it. And it's been polarizing. And tiring.

I'll keep this short.

Can we all just continue with living together in peace regardless of what we stand for and what we believe in? We're being consumed. Maybe even the most vocal are already getting tired.

Whoever reads this, regardless of what you stand for, for God's sake, can we all live in peace? Thank you.

Posted on December 8, 2016 Posted in [Uncategorized](#) [Leave a comment](#)

RUSSIA-PHILIPPINES RELATIONS

Lately we've been hearing reports that the Philippines intends to sign defence cooperation agreements, enhance economic relations, and even send workers to the Russian Federation, all of these as a result of a long-term effort to diversify our foreign relations and reduce dependency on the United States.

You may remember that our relations with the US has significantly deteriorated during the past few months over concerns of possible human rights violations in the ongoing drug war and President

Duterte's rants against the US. At the same time, he has voiced intentions to pivot to Russia and China.

During the sidelines of the APEC Summit he met with Russian president Vladimir Putin, in which he congratulated Duterte on his election victory (which incidentally is the date of Victory Day celebrations), and invited him to visit Russia early next year.

At the same time Russian companies expressed interest in investing in this country, as well as the Philippines aiming to increase exports.

After the US canceled the sale of 26,000 assault rifles, Russian manufacturers oriented PH embassy staff on what they have to offer.

Recently, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana visited Moscow to discuss the possibility of a defense cooperation agreement, and Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay spoke with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

Additionally, the Philippines explored possibilities of sending OFWs in Russia.

In such a short period we've seen major developments and this is going to be an exciting time, and reap the benefits of this new window of opportunities.

Posted on [December 12, 2016](#) Posted in [Uncategorized](#) Tagged [foreign policy](#), [foreign relations](#), [ofws in russia](#), [philippines](#), [Rodrigo Duterte](#), [rt](#), [Russia](#), [russia-philippines relations](#), [russian foreign policy](#), [sergey lavrov](#), [sputnik](#), [Vladimir Putin](#), [War on Drugs](#)
[Leave a comment](#)

LONG-DISTANCE FLIGHTS FROM MANILA TO LATIN AMERICA?



(A Boeing 777-300ER plane. Photo credit: <http://www.philippineairlines.com>)

Has anyone thought of direct flights from the Philippines to countries in Latin America?

We may share something in common when it comes to culture, traditions, heritage, among others, but why isn't there such a thing?

Considering the long distances (17-18 kilometers, 17hrs of flying, and the need for stopovers as airliners such as Boeing 777 could not have the capacity to fly non-stop, unless) and whether it could be financially viable or not, but who knows?

If both sides boost cultural ties, rekindling the common colonial heritage, and promote tourism, maybe this won't be a far-fetched idea after all.

Posted on December 14, 2016Posted

in UncategorizedTagged airlines, brazil, colombia, cuba, flights, latin america, long haul flights, mexico, philippine airlines, philippines, venezuela Leave a comment

ARC STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS



It's about six months since the ABS-CBN Regional Channel hit the airwaves with a promise of bringing viewers closer to home.

It was heavily promoted on its regional programs, and even has livestreaming access on Sky On Demand and iWanTV. But has it lived up to the expectations? No, not yet.

One would expect it will air most, if not all, programs from the ABS-CBN Regional family (from the morning shows to the regional editions of TV Patrol to KMWK), but has instead focused on select TV Patrol editions from Baguio, Dagupan, Batangas, Cebu, and Davao, the MagTV editions, current affairs, Agri Tayo Dito, and a repetitive mix of special events programs hosted by the Regional group (Kapamilya Karavan at home and One Kapamilya Go abroad) and movies dubbed in Cebuano (like The Hunger Games, Chinese Zodiac, and The Sorcerer and the White Snake). Their social media accounts also appear to be inactive.

Their rationale why they're keeping the present state of affairs is to keep viewers at suspense and wait. But with what they're doing, they are only making viewers lose interest. They couldn't keep waiting any longer. No one even knows what their initial scheduling might be. But keep on waiting.

I must say Regional is among the least-prioritized divisions of the Kapamilya network. Should the mother network begin prioritizing its regional audiences aside from big-budgeted teleseryes and movies with cliched themes, ARC will be able to keep up with its premise, as it has also promised original programming not seen on the originating stations.

So, for now, all we can do is wait.

Posted on [December 18, 2016](#) Posted in [Philippine Media](#) Tagged [ABS-CBN](#), [abs-cbn regional](#), [abs-cbn regional channel](#) [Leave a comment](#)

WHY NOT A NEW TRADE BLOC WITH LATIN AMERICA?



(Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte shaking hands with Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski during the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima, Peru last November 18-20, 2016. Photo credits: Philstar)

As part of the Philippines' ongoing push to pursue a foreign policy independent from the West, we would like to suggest why don't we consider establishing stronger links with the Latin American nations?

Previously this blog has discussed the possibility of direct air links with the continent, this time we will discuss closer political and economic cooperation.

We all know the Philippines and Latin America has shared cultural links thanks to three centuries of Spanish colonization. We have had the Acapulco galleon trade from 1565 to 1821, when the Latin American countries declared independence from Spain one by one.

American influence in our culture had somehow diminished centuries of common heritage, but why can't we rekindle these? For example, we have something in common when it comes to religiosity, telenovelas, and populist politics to name a few.

In keeping with modern challenges, this proposes that a new regional bloc with these countries could help us cope with common problems such as poverty and income inequality, a common approach in combating illegal drugs (PNP Dir. Gen. Bato dela Rosa has visited Colombia to study their approaches), and reestablishing cultural links, including reintroduction of the Spanish language.

We can also heavily promote tourism and trade opportunities, generating revenue and creating jobs.

There's a lot of work to be done and this is a big gamble which if handled efficiently will generate huge benefits for both sides.

Posted on December 20, 2016 Posted in Philippine Politics, World Politics Tagged argentina, brazil, chile, colombia, costa rica, cuba, diplomatic relations, ecuador, el salvador, honduras, latin america, mexico, panama, paraguay, peru, philippines, politics, spain, uruguay, venezuela [Leave a comment](#)

ON FAKE NEWS:

WHAT'S YOUR STAND?

There has been a lot of talk regarding fake news recently, with the spread of heavily partisan news sources or outright hoaxes and its influence in shaping public opinion. But we would like to ask a question. Which is more alarming, and who's more responsible, these "fake news" sites or mainstream media's failure to truly reflect the needs of the people?

Share us your thoughts.

Posted on [December 21, 2016](#)Posted in [Uncategorized](#)Tagged [debate](#), [discussion](#), [facebook](#), [fake news](#), [hoax news](#), [mainstream media](#), [news](#) [Leave a comment](#)

BANAT TOP 5

FOR 2016

With this blog barely a year old and due my relatively busy schedule (coupled with a penchant for procrastination), we have not been able to post that much content, but we would like to end the year with the top 5 issues that we feel made a lot of impact.

5. Geopolitical earthquakes one after another

The rise of populist movements from both sides of the political spectrum, the resignations of and removals of various heads of state, struggles to resolve armed conflicts, among others. To enumerate:

- Impeachment of Park Geun-hye (South Korea), Dilma Rousseff (Brazil)

- Resignation of British PM David Cameron, New Zealand PM John Key, Italian PM Matteo Renzi
- Death of former Cuban Fidel Castro, Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Uzbek President Islam Karimov
- Brexit and the upset victory of the 'leave' camp
- Ratification of the Colombian FARC peace deal and its subsequent rejection in a referendum
- Increased Russian involvement in the Syrian civil war, especially Aleppo
- Failed coup attempt in Turkey which resulted in President Recep Tayyip Erdogan cracking down further on dissent
- North Korean nuclear threat
- Resolution of the Spanish government crisis with Mariano Rajoy keeping his seat
- Election victory of Tsai Ing-wen and the resumption of cross-strait tensions
- The rise of the alt-right movement
- Victory of Donald Trump
- The Philippine drug war
- Rescue of the Chibok girls
- Economic collapse of Zimbabwe
- Continued tensions in Ukraine

The list goes on.

4. Terrorist attacks

The most recent of which, the Berlin attack, assassination of Russian ambassador to Turkey Andrey Karlov. Some of those were:

- Nice, France
- Brussels, Belgium
- Davao City
- Cairo, Egypt

The list goes on.

3. Social media responsibility

The use of social media has become more prominent, with calls for responsibility increasing. The spread of so-called “fake news” and the heavily toxic air of debate has been a worrying trend.

The above mentioned are meant for our international audience, as this year we have tried to reach a readership outside of the Philippines. The top 2 will be geared towards our local readers.

2. Media trends

- The never-ending claim for television rating leadership (ABS-CBN vs. GMA)
- MMFF’s shift to one based on independent productions
- Baron Geisler’s issues

The list goes on. For more on these, visit Ralph Domingo’s From The Tube (fromthetube.wordpress.com) or Timow’s Turf. (timowparagas.wordpress.com).

1. Philippine political landscape

By next year, the blog might start to avoid talking about Filipino politics as it has become so divided at such a point people are being bullied.

- Duterte’s victory
- The ruling on South China Sea
- The war on drugs
- Marcos burial
- Independent foreign policy

The list goes on.

We have not delved into details as it might be depressing and provoking to some and it takes lots of research to squeeze an entire year in one short post.

From us in Banat, we wish you a happy holidays and may 2017 bring us peace in our minds.

Posted on [December 23, 2016](#)Posted in [Philippine Politics](#), [Uncategorized](#), [World Politics](#)Tagged [2016](#), [2016 ends](#), [banat](#), [banat blog site](#), [goodbye 2016](#), [news](#), [politics](#), [world](#), [year in review](#) [Leave a comment](#)

NEW LOOK, AND STORIES IN STORE

Before this year ends, I have decided to unveil a new look for the blog, which reflects the seriousness in our approach and to further attract readership. Coupled with that, we will improve our content.

For our domestic (Filipino) audience, here are posts you will expect from us for the coming days or perhaps next year:

- GMA Network under Gozon and claims to be number one
- The federal parliamentary system shift and our proposal for such a shift
- ABS-CBN News programming in high-definition
- The long-overdue part 2 of our Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa series (which supposed to tackle on how the Philippines should reform its language policy)
- Internet connectivity in the Philippines

We will try to avoid overtly discuss topics such as the war on drugs because of intense emotions on both sides of the political spectrum and the amount of political butthurt.

As for international audiences, we will try at our best to discuss events of international importance to the best of our abilities.

From us here, thank you.

Posted on [December 24, 2016](#)Posted in [Uncategorized](#)Tagged [banat](#), [banat blog](#), [new topics](#), [philippines](#), [yearend](#) [Leave a comment](#)

IDEAS FOR ROUTES **TO LATIN AMERICA**

We would like to pitch some ideas on how to operate flights from the Philippines to Latin America, as non-stop flights are still impossible even for jumbo airliners like the Airbus A330, Boeing 777, Airbus A340, Airbus A350, and perhaps Airbus A380 (correct me if I'm wrong):

- Manila to Sao Paolo via Johannesburg
- Manila to Rio de Janeiro via Johannesburg
- Manila to Mexico City (non-stop)
- Manila to Montevideo via Johannesburg
- Manila to Buenos Aires via Johannesburg
- Manila to Santiago via Auckland
- Manila to San Juan via Mexico City
- Manila to Quito via Auckland
- Manila to Lima via Auckland
- Manila to Asuncion via Auckland
- Manila to Cocachamba via Johannesburg
- Manila to La Paz via Johannesburg
- Manila to Santa Cruz-Viru Viru via Johannesburg
- Manila to Bogota via Mexico City
- Manila to Caracas via Mexico City
- Manila to Panama City via Mexico City
- Manila to Havana via Mexico City
- Manila to Managua via Mexico City
- Manila to San Salvador via Mexico City
- Manila to San Jose via Mexico City
- Manila to Tegucigalpa via Mexico City

- Manila to Santo Domingo via Mexico City
- Manila to Guatemala City via Mexico City

The above mentioned are for trans-Pacific routes. For a probably less costly and more profitable one, consider Madrid or Lisbon as possible stopovers.

These are for the flag carrier Philippine Airlines should the day come they would ever decide to expand to the region. At present they have a fleet of eight Boeing 777-300s which are primarily used to flights in the United States, Canada, and UK, and future expansion to Rome, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, and Paris. They also have orders for six Airbus A350-500s which will most likely be deployed to these destinations.

At present Latin American carriers have limited presence in the Asian region (for example, Aeromexico has flights to Shanghai and Tokyo), but for expansion plans they might consider the Philippines as it is a cultural cousin.

Will this become feasible in the future? Share us your thoughts.

Posted on [December 25, 2016](#)Posted in [Uncategorized](#)Tagged [airlines](#), [direct flights from manila to latin america](#), [philippines](#), [latin america](#), [philippine airlines](#) [2 Comments](#)

ARAW NI RIZAL SA MATA NG MGA TROLLS

Disclaimer: *This post contains heavy amounts of sarcasm which some may not be able to handle, and may generate considerable amount of butthurt. Read at your own discretion. We will not be responsible for any backlash that may arise.*



Ito na naman ang araw na ipagdiriwang ng mga Pepetards ang araw ng pagkamatay ng kanilang bayani na si Jose Rizal, na isang aktibista na wala namang ibang ginawa kundi maghanap ng chix at magpasarap sa Europa.

Hindi niyo ba alam na yang mga history books na binabasa ninyo ngayon ay may mga bias? Malay niyo baka hindi pa nga sila pinanganak noong panahon ng mga Kastila eh.

Atsaka yang bias na media na yan? Pagawa-gawa ng pelikula tungkol sa mga kabayanihan niya kuno? Mag-research nga kayo, hindi yung puro kayo ingay. Hindi kayo maka-move on eh.

Atsaka yung mga human rights violations na yan, hindi naman sila totortyurin ng mga Kastila kung hindi sila mga aktibista eh. Kung sumusunod kayo sa batas hindi niyo mararanasan ang mga

naranasan ng mga aktibistang yan. Ang iingay eh. Ano ba nagawa niyo para sa bayan?

Yung iba galit na galit pa rin sa Kastila pero hindi pa naman sila pinapanganak noon eh. Sige nga. Wag niyo gamitin ang mga pangalan niyong tunog-Espanyol, wag kayo mag-aral sa Ateneo or sa UST. Wag kayo magpapagamot sa Hospicio de San Jose. Lumayas kayo sa Maynila, Cebu, Iloilo. Wag na rin kayo magsimba.

At teka, kung bayani talaga si Rizal bakit hindi siya nakalibing sa Libingan ng mga Bayani? Sige nga. Hindi kayo nag-iisip eh. Pero ang dapat ilibing diyan ay si Miguel Lopez de Legazpi.

Tanggapin niyo na lang na Golden Age ng Pilipinas ang pananakop ng mga Kastila. Maayos naman ang palakad nila kung di lang dahil sa mga bayarang Katipunerong 'yan.

Ano masasabi niyo mga ka-DDS (Damaso Diehard Supporters)?

#RizalNotAHero

#KastilaPaRinMgaUlol

#GoldenAgeOfThePhilippines

Posted on December 30, 2016 Posted in [Uncategorized](#) [Leave a comment](#)

NEW FRIENDS, NEW PARTNERS



(The Russian Navy anti-submarine ship Admiral Tributz, as photographed, docked in Manila for a four-day goodwill visit. Photo courtesy of CNN Philippines.)

One of the first major stories of the year is the four-day goodwill visit of the Russian Navy in Manila in an effort to expand contact and relations. This has culminated a long-standing effort of the Duterte administration to seek closer relations with the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China amid worsening relations with the United States.

Highlights of the visit were the demonstration of Russian Marines of their capabilities and skills and the press briefing held by Russian Ambassador Igor Khovaev in which he stated Russia's intentions to aid the Philippines in its efforts to curb terrorism and maritime piracy. Russian Navy Rear Admiral Eduard Mikhailov, who lead the delegation meanwhile expressed wishes that the Philippines could conduct joint military exercise and the Philippines is free to decide

whether it can pursue cooperation with either Russia or the United States and that Russia will not interfere with our decisions.

What are we going to get from this?

I see an opening of wide opportunities. The Philippines will be able to project itself as an important player in the Pacific region, the Russians seeking closer relations with Asian countries such as China and Japan as it seeks to develop its Far East regions and as a result of tensions with the West.

The Philippines will be supplied with modern military equipment in considerably cheaper prices rather than relying on second-hand equipment from the United States. We can even arrange with the Russians to have those weapons produced locally, which requires of course intensive investment.

Third, this can be seen as a sign for all players in the South China Sea to pursue a path of peace. Russia has close economic, political, and military relations with China, maintained a naval base in Vietnam, has close relations with India and Indonesia, a key player in the North Korean nuclear talks, and seeks to sign a formal peace treaty with Japan 70 years after World War II.

This will create a win-win situation to the best interest of everyone in the region. Besides, Russia have said it should not cause the traditional allies of the Philippines a huge deal of concern, and what is being offered is not a formal alliance.

In light of these developments, we must say hello to our new partners and wish us the best of luck. Spasibo and salamat!

Posted on [January 6, 2017](#) Posted in [Philippine Politics](#), [World Politics](#) Tagged [armed forces of the philippines](#), [duterte](#), [military](#), [philippines](#), [putin](#), [Russia](#), [russian navy](#) [Leave a comment](#)

MY TAKE: HOW TO EFFECTIVELY COUNTER A POTENTIAL OUSTER PLOT



With social media abuzz with the so-called #LeniLeaks, i.e. the supposed exchange of messages between journalists working for 2 respectable media institutions, leaders of overseas Filipino groups, and the office of the second highest position in the land. If these are verified, as some top Duterte apologists (Thinking Pinoy, Sass Rogando Sasot, and others) allege, there is indeed a serious plot to remove the duly-elected president and reinstate the old political establishment, again evoking the narrative of a “fight between evil and good, democracy vs. dictatorship”.

Before I start, let me be clear. I have promised myself to remain silent and keep my views to myself and a select few to avoid getting involved in this increasingly bitter discourse. And both sides (dila and DDS) are playing a sinister game. I just want to stay in the middle and go on with my life.

Now, in the event these plots are put into motion, I will offer myself to put up a resistance to these plots. Here are those:

1. **Go out and be involved.** They were able to organize people to get out on the streets during protests against the burial of former president/dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Personally, I'm opposed to the move but there's nothing we can do. (It really was meant to be in opposition to Marcos but some placards have strayed from the original motive.) You may be laughing at them because they were only able to mobilize some 5,000-20,000 people. But counterprotests of so-called "Duterte Youth" gathered only 8-10 people, giving them the impression "they are only many in cyberspace but do not even turn out when the time comes." This is time for you to prove them wrong. If you are truly concerned for the welfare of this country and if you do not want an ouster plot to materialize, get out there.
2. **More media exposure.** You are enraged your voices are not being heard by mainstream media yet you still get their news from them. It's time we have to develop state media (PBS & PTV) and support alternative outlets which you feel will hear you. At the same time, you have to be extremely vigilant, be careful of the news you consume because these may be hoaxes or meant to distract you (like those click-bait fake news sites). They have access to international media (CNN, The Guardian, BBC, others) and you're enraged they're not listening to your side of the story and their reports do not reflect your genuine sentiments. Should they not listen, you have Channel NewsAsia, Russia's RT or Sputnik, or China's CGTN. They might listen.
3. **If the ouster plot materializes, give them a headache.** If ever they succeed in this plan to oust the president, you should recognize they have disrespected the your mandate. 30 years after the EDSA revolution and 2 Aquinos in Malacañang yet you have failed to reap the fruits

and only benefitted the political establishment, yet the same establishment would want to take it away from you. Engage in civil disobedience and show them you will never let this pass.

Personally, I have given Robredo the benefit of the doubt and even dismissed the claims she cheated her way to the Vice Presidency. I even hoped she would be sincere and be as hardworking as the President, she is willing to set aside personal differences to have a working relationship, but subsequent events proved me wrong. In my personal opinion, we wouldn't even be in this mess had Alan Cayetano successfully convinced people he would make a good VP. Moving back, I always had the suspicion the "yellows" will try to devise a plot to remove President Duterte from office but I don't think it will ever push through because it would be so stupid and tantamount to political suicide. With 8 out of 10 Filipinos giving their support, that is according to a recent survey by Pulse Asia, and the number of achievements within 6 months, and much of the people losing trust with the Liberal Party, and with Robredo having a rather lackluster performance (despite efforts showing the opposite), this will give them a very hard time in convincing people the president has to step down. They have nothing to blame but themselves on why we ended up in this situation.

In light of these developments, we have to stay vigilant because it will get more interesting as time goes by. Whether these allegations will be confirmed or not, this will further stain the credibility of the vice president and the Liberal Party by extension. Best hopes, this never pushes through, if they do, all we have to do is resist.

Note: As much as I wanted to avoid openly speaking out to avoid being caught in the political crossfire, I think it is best to speak out as these events are not helping the country. Despite some reservations over the President's present policies and his brash manner, I still maintain my support and will not accept any attempt to reverse the verdict of the people expressed in the May 2016 elections. I will maintain an assertion we will not be caught in this mess if Alan Cayetano was able to pull off a victory which sad to say he did not. The only way for one administration to succeed if his second-in-command comes from his team. The US maintains a joint-ticket in elections, presumably to avoid these situations. Bongbong Marcos would have been a great vice president and appears to be willing to set aside differences but given the association with the

Marcos name and efforts to abstain himself from responsibility over the atrocities committed under his father's 20-year presidency he would have a hard time. The Liberal Party very much symbolized the political establishment and only have themselves to blame on why people resorted to populist tendencies, as is the trend across the world. 30 years since the EDSA revolution and the restoration of democracy but people have failed to reap the fruits of their newly-restored freedoms and felt it only benefitted the establishment, and this frustration gave rise to people promising swift solutions, and any attempt to reverse this in the guise of defending democracy will only be seen as an attempt at restoring the old establishment which is already in the process of being dismantled, at least in the eyes of those supporting Duterte. In this modern era where emotions trump thought, we must share a mutual responsibility in restoring this, as it will help us all. For both sides, let us not be blinded by fanaticism, instead be guarded by rationality and make sure it doesn't violate our principles. It's tiring.

Posted on [January 8, 2017](#) Posted in [Philippine](#)

[Politics](#) Tagged [#lenileaks](#), [dilawan](#), [duterte](#), [kadds](#), [leaks](#), [leni robredo](#), [liberal party](#), [oust duterte plot](#), [ouster plots](#), [philippines](#), [Rodrigo Duterte](#) [Leave a comment](#)

ANG NAKAKAIRITANG TELCO SYSTEM SA PILIPINAS

Ano mararamdaman mo kapag nakaranas ka ng sobrang bagal na internet at sobrang bagal na customer service? Tapos yung ikaw na ang naperwisyo ikaw pa ang pagbabayaran? Nakakainis diba?

That exactly was our experience. Common knowledge naman sa atin na ang internet sa Pilipinas ay isa sa pinakamabagal sa Asya pero

isa rin sa pinakamahal. At marami sa atin ang nagtitiis na lamang sa free data no wonder kung bakit nagkalat ang mga kung anu-anong bagay na nakakasira ng utak. Yung feeling na pinagtutulung-tulungan tayo ng major telcos (Smart, Globe, PLDT, Sky)

Noong 2014, nagswitch kami sa SKYbroadband dahil nabagalan kami sa internet ng PLDT. So far so good naman ang speed, kahit minsan bumanagal din. 3mbps for 999.

Fast-forward at ito na ang major turnoff. February 2016 nang magdecide kami na pag-isahin na lang ang cable and internet connection namin para isahan na lang. Upgraded pa ang cable plan namin para at the same time nakakanood kami in HD (Super Saver 1299 siya noon, 2mbps na net at free 549 cable plan).

Hanggang noong December 2016, biglang nawala ang internet namin. Dun na lang namin nalaman na may utang daw kami. P10,711 ata yun. Paano nangyari yun? At bakit namin babayaran yun? Huli na raw kami nagbayad noong Dec. 2015 pa daw. Supposed to be pinuputol na within 2 months. Eh nakapag-internet pa kami hanggang nung December ng isang taon? Makakapagmura ka talaga ng malutong.

Yung isa pang nakakainis yung follow-up ka ng follow-up pero wala namang nangyayari. Isang buwan na huy! Tapos malalaman mong hanggang sa hindi “settled” ay di nila aayusin yun? Sila na nga tong nakaperwisyo sila pa maninigil? Rebate naman dyan oy.

Sobrang naiinis ako halos itsa-itsahin ko na ang router at napapagalitan na ako ng nanay ko dahil baka madagdagan ang bayarin dahil nasira. At sa kakapa-follow up ko ay pati pangalan ni Duterte nahihila na dito. (Lopez may-ari ng SKY diba? And SKY is a sister company of ABS-CBN. Lagot!) Ewan ko na lang sa mga Globe at PLDT users dyan baka ganyan din experience niyo.

Di lang dito natatapos kalbaryo ko. Ngayon nagtitiis na lang ako sa tig-50 na load ng SMART. One day, 40 mb. Ang kunat. Tapos ubos na agad.

Dagdagan mo pa ng sobrang kunat na tig-30 minutes na free WiFi ng Globe. Sa SM o sa ibang lugar free 1 hour.

Yung ang bagal-bagal na nga, ang kunat-kunat, mahal pa babayaran mo (sa Singapore nga P1,500 50GB na eh). Tapos kapag nagkaproblema, aabutin pa ng isang buwan.

Pag di pa nagbago sitwasyon dito, ay ewan ko na lang. Pero di ako magrarant ng ganito kapag ok pa internet namin eh ano? Wala eh, inano kami ng billing eh. Akalain mo, paano ka magkakautang ng ganun kalaki eh di naman lumalabas sa bill? Tas para i-reconnect pababayaran sa inyo?

Kainis na ah. Ang tagal.

Posted on [January 12, 2017](#) Posted in [Uncategorized](#) Tagged [globe](#), [internet](#), [internet speed](#), [mabagal na internet sa pilipinas](#), [pldt](#), [skybroadband](#), [skycable](#), [slow internet](#), [smart](#), [wifi](#) [Leave a comment](#)

GMA NEEDS REHAB (#NUMBERONEPAMORE)

Towards the end of the previous year I promised that I will make a piece on the present state of GMA Network, with their incessant claims to leadership despite the opposite. (Only in Mega Manila. You have a major problem in the provinces. Di kami may sabi nyan.)

**MARAMING SALAMAT
SA PATULOY NINYONG PAGSUPORTA!**
NIELSEN PHILS. TAM (ARIANNA) NUTAM PEOPLE RATINGS
JANUARY 19, 2017
BASED ON PRELIMINARY/OVERNIGHT DATA

	WOWWIN	6.0
	PINOY BIG BROTHER	3.3
	MINUTE TO WIN IT	5.3
	24 ORAS	10.5
	TV PATROL	8.3
	ENCANTADIA	12.9
	FPJ's ANG PROBINSYANO	11.5
	ALYAS ROBIN HOOD	10.8
	A LOVE TO LAST	9.5
	MEANT TO BE	7.9
	TILL I MET YOU	6.4

GMA Telebabad
www.gmanetwork.com

(Please lang GMA, tigilan niyo ito.)

Ralph Domingo's From the Tube did his piece already with the major points perfectly elaborated (labor issues, retrechments, the reluctance to invest on talent and digital broadcasts, et al.) I will just have to add mine.

There are only two things that can substantiate their claims. One is their clear signal thanks to the Tower of Power, and second is its

news department which by far has received many accolades (that said even in news they have problems. *Saan ka ba naman kasi nakakita ng news channel na may Koreanovela at pelikula, diba?*).

There is also this unforgivable practice of converting their programs to standard definition despite the use of high-definition cameras. *Ang panget kaya tignan*. We're in the age of transition at napapag-iwanan kayo!

No livestream, no focus on DTT, cringeworthy concepts, worst of all, GMA boasts of the worst fantards. *Inggit? Di niyo lang kasi tanggap ang totoo*.

What needs to be done here? GMA has to sell NOW. Try to renegotiate with Globe, Ramon Ang, enter into a strategic partnership with SM, Solar, or APT.

Or just maybe..

GMA's stocks are sold for just around P6 per share. Bili kaya ako ng stocks? Malay niyo naman. Hehe

I rest my case. Soundtrip muna.

Posted on [January 28, 2017](#) Posted in [Philippine Media](#) Tagged [GMA](#), [gma 7](#), [gma 7 improvements](#), [GMA Network](#), [ratings](#) [Leave a comment](#)

WHAT I WOULD DO IF I WERE GMA BOSS

Last week, [this blog](#) and Ralph Domingo's [From the Tube](#) discussed and enumerated GMA Network's present and persistent problems which aims to debunk their never-ending claims to the leadership of the ratings game in Philippine broadcast television. (*to fantards reading this thinking na may pinapanigan kami, sorry na lang kayo.*)

This time I would like to enumerate my plans if given the chance to run the network, and probably to that effect finally giving substance to claims of being number one.

End the blocktime agreement with Zoe, and relaunch GMA News TV

In 2004, GMA Network and Jesus Is Lord Movement-owned Zoe Broadcasting entered into a long-term airtime lease agreement wherein Zoe retains ownership to the franchise of Channel 11's frequency while GMA leases its airtime and manages its marketing.

The deal was put into effect when GMA launched QTV which was originally intended to a female audiences. Despite good programming and decent ratings (even clinching the 3rd spot in the short term), high costs and low returns finally put a dent in its performance.

Hence, in 2011, QTV ceased operations and was relaunched as GMA News TV. Initially a promising station as it draws on GMA News' wide resources and its recognizable *Serbisyong Totoo* brand, in the end it ended up as a disappointment with its inaction during select special events coverage and the notable inclusion of non-news related programming, along with the inclusion of sign-on and sign-off hours.

A possible solution to this problem is finally abandoning the VHF band and instead relaunch GMA News TV (maybe rebrand it simply as GMA News) on digital television and online. GMA will tap on the great potential of digital television with its clear, crisp signal and even make use of the Emergency Warning Broadcast System (EWBS) and Broadcast Markup Language (BML) features to the benefit of the

viewers. We'll also make use of the internet to further expand GMA News TV's reach, as more people consume news content online and on the go, and because it is on the go. This is what CBSN (CBS News' online news channel) is doing.

As for the present format of "GMA News TV" (or former Q), we can revive it on DTT by launching GMA Life TV in the Philippines.

Enter into a strategic partnership with Solar

GMA Network's partnership with Solar Entertainment is present during Sen. Manny Pacquiao's boxing matches as well as select special events, including the just-concluded Miss Universe 2016, but we would like to expand it into a long-term agreement, most especially during sporting events, given the high costs of procuring the rights to broadcast international sporting events and producing local sports properties.

I'd like to see GMA and Solar to team up in acquiring the rights to broadcast the PBA, Philippine Super Liga, NCAA to name a few local sports events but we'll also acquire the rights to broadcast FIBA, the WWE, and others.

To further expand our presence in cable, maybe acquire a 50% stake in Solar and give the Tiengs management positions in the new GMA.

Revitalize the regional and radio networks

In 2015, GMA cut back its regional operations in an effort to save costs. As a result, the stations in Iloilo, Ilocos, Naga, and Cagayan de Oro were downgraded while the originating stations in Dagupan, Cebu, and Davao limiting its original programs to daily newscasts. This severely affected GMA's presence in the regions.

GMA under our management will once again kick-start expansion efforts in the regions and extensively promote ourselves. We'll expand the production of local in-house programming and even

launch a channel on DTT focusing on regional programming. By contrast to ABS-CBN Regional Channel, this GMA regional channel will be similar to the American broadcast networks devoting time to regional and national programming.

As for radio, we will rebrand DZBB as GMA News Radyo, once again drawing from GMA News' wide resources and providing GMA News TV a complementary medium. We could possibly retain Barangay LS but maybe rebrand and reformat it as something else.

Massive overhaul of programming

Our GMA's programming will greatly deviate from its present grid. GMA will stop trying to imitate whatever ABS-CBN has to offer and instead counter everything ABS-CBN and TV5 has to offer.

Our GMA will spearhead weekly programs, a daily news-talk program on primetime, a talk show on Saturday night, a transfer of Bubble Gang to Sundays, and some other changes to programming.

We'll fire Lilybeth Rasonable and appoint Tony Tuviera and Malou Choa Fagar as replacement content officers. We'll entrust production to some of GMA's directors (Mark Reyes, Dominic Zapata, and others).

Other improvements

To better improve the stars' quality and to protect them, we'll get directors Bb. Joyce Bernal and Jose Javier Reyes.

GMA will also get greater access to financing by occasionally borrowing from banks and ensuring they're paid on time and invite possible investors like Ramon Ang, SM, and Globe.

We'll finally launch an online streaming service to be dubbed GMA Online so everyone can enjoy programs anytime, anywhere without

ever relying on pirate sites and YouTube. This also has livestreaming of Channel 7 which the present management refuses to do.

GMA Records will promote original Filipino music not only in Tagalog but also local languages like Cebuano. GMA Films will be tapped to produce made-for-TV movies, and also improve GMA's international television channels.

These are only some of what I propose or intend to do with GMA, if only given the chance. Maybe this will give the present management ideas on how to improve themselves before they decide to sell. There's not much we can do about it, but who knows? Let's see.

Posted on [January 31, 2017](#) Posted in [Philippine Media](#) Tagged [dwls](#), [dzbb](#), [felipe gozon](#), [gma 7 improvements](#), [gma 7 kapuso](#), [GMA News TV](#), [GMA Regional TV](#), [gozon](#)
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PROPOSALS FOR A FEDERAL GOVERNME NT



(image courtesy of CNN Philippines)

With the Duterte administration yet to fulfill its promises of shifting to a federal system, and the never-ending debates on whether we should initiate such a shift, please let us lay out our own proposals for reform.

A ceremonial presidency with some reserve powers

The president will remain the nominal head of state. The president will be elected to a six-year term with no limits. He will remain to appoint judges, cabinet members, and other officials, sign bills into laws, and grant pardons. He will also remain commander-in-chief of

the armed forces. The president will set his agenda through the state of the nation address.

The presidency is largely ceremonial but will largely maintain some emergency powers including the imposition of martial law (to be approved by parliament) and states of emergency, rebellion, or others.

A strong premiership

The president will appoint a prime minister which shall come from the largest party forming the majority. The prime minister has an indefinite term limit but could be removed by a no-confidence vote, a replacement appointed by the president, or direct elections.

The prime minister makes sure the agendas set by the president are carried out and responsible for the implementation of government policies. The prime minister will have the power to recommend the state budget to the president.

He will also make sure there is a proper coordination between the federal and state governments.

A bicameral legislature

We envision a bicameral *Batasang Pambansa* to serve as our legislature. The lower chamber (*Batasang Bayan* or assembly) will be selected from the constituent states and representatives of various sectors. They will be responsible drafting bills which if passed will be recommended to the speaker, then the prime minister, then the president.

The upper chamber (*Sanggunian* or Council) will be responsible for decisions for the federal level (national defense, taxation, foreign policy, and other matters). It will be made up of the 18 leaders of the different federal subjects, with a rotational chairmanship.

Federal subjects

The Philippines will be divided into 19 co-equal federal subjects (or if you may, republics):

1. Metro Manila Special Administrative Region (composed of Metro Manila and Rizal)
2. Ilocos
3. Cordillera
4. Sierra Madre and Batanes (Cagayan Valley)
5. Central Luzon
6. Southern Tagalog
7. Bicol
8. Mimaropa
9. Panay
10. Negros (both Negros provinces and Siquijor)
11. Cebu (composed of Cebu and Bohol)
12. Eastern Visayas
13. Caraga
14. Davao
15. Cotabato
16. Northern Mindanao
17. Zamboanga
18. Bangsamoro
19. Federal Capital Area (Baguio City shall be the new capital)

They will have their own legislatures and own laws or systems but at the same time federal law shall remain supreme.

Court system

The court system will largely remain the same: Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, the Regional and Metropolitan Trial Courts, and others.

Other areas of reform

There will be a federal police force, federal armed forces, progressive tax system, a new public broadcaster among others. There are many areas where the Philippines has to reform but these are the most fundamental, basic reforms we are proposing. In the end, however, it is still up to them to decide.

Posted on [February 1, 2017](#) Posted in [Philippine Politics](#), [Uncategorized](#) Tagged [duterte](#), [federal philippines](#), [federalism](#), [philippines](#), [reform](#), [republic of the philippines](#) [Leave a comment](#)



EMBRACING LANGUAGE DIVERSITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

(Note: The post should have been published during the Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa last August 2016 as part of a two or three-part series. Apologies for the delay.)

The Philippines at present uses Filipino and English as official languages. However since then, it has become the topic of various debates, on whether Filipino is just another branch of the Tagalog language instead of being an amalgamation of all Filipino languages as originally intended, and why the use of English is more prominent than the use of Filipino in various discourses, and the never-ending stigma of calling non-Tagalog languages as dialects, which earns the ire of non-Tagalog people especially the Cebuanos. (We have already debunked that in the first part of the supposed series.)

Now, how should we correct this?

It's time for us to enact a new policy in embracing this reality, that is declaring the most common languages as co-equals (Tagalog, Cebuano, Hiligaynon, Waray, Ilokano, Pangalatok, Kapampangan, Bikol, Tausug, Chavacano) and recognizing and protecting the rights of the minority languages (Akeanon, Kinaray-a, Ibaloi, Kankana-ey, Maranao, others). We must also protect them by having a national language institute regulating and protecting them.

There should also be a promotion of the use and proficiency in English (promotion of global competitiveness) and Spanish (to rekindle ties with our cultural cousins in Latin America).

We should also encourage our children to know at least 3-5 languages aside from their mother tongues.

Filipino languages must also be taught since elementary with the option of further studies in college.

Lastly, we must also launch a campaign promoting and encouraging multilingualism to end the still-lingering stigma that all Filipino languages are “dialects” (through schools, media, others).

For us to have a true sense of unity, we have to embrace diversity. We are one nation of many distinct cultures and tongues.

Posted on [February 2, 2017](#) Posted in [Philippine Politics](#) Tagged [filipino](#), [filipino vs tagalog](#), [imperial manila](#), [multilingualism](#), [national language](#), [wikang pambansa](#) [Leave a comment](#)



THE FILIPINO LEFT
DESPARATELY NEEDS A
NEW VOICE

In a disturbing turn of events, the Communist Party of the Philippines' armed wing New Peoples' Army announced a termination of their unilateral ceasefire starting Feb.10. The stated reasons were the government's refusal to comply with their demands of the release of more than 400 political prisoners and the military's withdrawal from their "territories".

As a response, President Rodrigo Duterte announced a lifting of the Armed Forces' own unilateral ceasefire, citing incidents involving the capture and murder of soldiers in separate incidents in Bukinon, North Cotabato, and an NPA raid in Batangas. In an apparent tone of exasperation, Duterte said "peace cannot be realized with communists at this time".

It is truly sad to hear of these developments but if there's one thing we should learn with this experience, it is that more moderate forces on the left must begin to be heard.

Peace talks have become impossible mainly due to the NPA's demands to free all of their political prisoners as a condition to further peace talks when in fact it should be an outcome, numerous violations on their side (they accuse the military of committing atrocities when they shoot unarmed and off-duty soldiers, on the part of the military, if validated, they should be put into court martial). And on the so-called "encroachment of their territory"? It's as if having a state within a state.

Now that the mutual unilateral ceasefires have been lifted and that Duterte has ordered peace negotiators to come home, now it really is the time to rethink and a new long-term program to implement socialist-oriented reforms which the Philippines needs to truly succeed.

Over time, the Maoist strategy of protracted people's war has become obsolete, factors include the downfall of the Marcos regime and subsequent economic growth over the succeeding decades (though poverty and income inequality has still remained, along with

a focus on service-oriented jobs instead of manufacturing and agriculture).

Add to that is the still unresolved issue of land reform and contracturalization, which if unresolved will continue to build a base of support to these Maoist guerillas. The conditions creating the roots of armed conflict must be solved through peaceful means.

The urban front groups, some of which are elected in our Congress, though they may have legitimate concerns but have instead used methods like burning effigies, vandalizing, and others have only earned them the ire of the public instead of support.

Complicating these are the still-lingering negative mindset of Filipinos towards left-wing politics, given the absence of more moderate voices and the effects of Cold War-era propaganda.

Now, the Filipino left must reinvent itself in order to look more like social democratic or green parties in Europe, or like the movement Bernie Sanders have built in the United States.

That is engaging in people-to-people contact, engaging in social work, building grassroots community organization to earn trust and support (which I think the partylists are hopefully doing).

The burning of effigies and other disruptive stuff will do nothing. We would prefer direct action, that is actually doing something to get things done.

To fill this void, the old Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas-1930 must be reinvigorated. It is the Philippines' legal communist party (it has abandoned armed struggle in 1974 in exchange of achieving legal status after the defeat of the Huk rebellion and the ideological split of the 1960s). It's time for us to follow the suit of Japan, Russia, and countries in Latin America and Europe, all of which have elected communist representatives in their respective legislatures.

If we are to follow a communist path, Yugoslavia is the best example. It has supported equal rights for its various nationalities and workers' self-management. The Maoist model the CPP-NPA-NDF and front organizations will simply won't work in the Philippines and (sorry to say this) most likely we'd end up like Venezuela. (Even the FARC has given up arms.)

The radicals might not like this but we have to accept this fact. It really is the time for more moderate voices of the left to rise up. You may think we already have Duterte, but he's only a catalyst for things to come (as his administration also has it flaws, i.e. the war on drugs).

We rest our case. (In case being tagged as 'revisionst', we'll tell them they're no different to fascists. Their failure to adapt and their treatment of socialist concepts as if it were religious dogma are making them become what they have hated.)

(photo credit: cprf.ru)

Posted on [February 5, 2017](#) Posted in [Philippine Politics](#), [World Politics](#) Tagged [bernie sanders](#), [castro](#), [cold war](#), [communism](#), [communist party](#), [cpp-npa](#), [farc](#), [hugo chavez](#), [industrialization](#), [land reform](#), [left politics](#), [maoism](#), [marxism](#), [partido komunista ng pilipinas](#), [peace talks](#), [social democrats](#), [socialism](#), [venezuela](#) [Leave a comment](#)



TRUMP'S FOREIGN POLICY, ITS CONSISTENCIES, AND HOW IT MIGHT AFFECT THE WORLD

Have you noticed how inconsistent the Trump administration is when it comes to foreign policy? In much of his speeches and policy, Donald Trump has been promoting cooperation with Russia in issues like terrorism (and the war in Syria) and how “he would like to get along with President Vladimir Putin” but at the same time has advocated a hawkish stance on countries where Russia has built up strong relations like Cuba, Iran, China, and others.

Trump has advocated a hawkish stance on the South China Sea at a time when the claimant states like Vietnam and the Philippines has adopted policies setting aside their differences in exchange of economic cooperation.

Trump has threatened to reverse the progress made since the Iran deal was signed and appears to be heading to a position of war, again contradicting Trump's promises of not heading into another war and instead focus on domestic issues.

In Israel, despite criticisms over its settlement program, Trump as well as Republicans are turning a blind eye.

When it comes to the wall, Trump has proudly stated that Mexico will “pay for the wall” (Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto has said many times Mexico will not pay for a wall) when in fact should a import tariff be imposed on Mexican imports American taxpayers will pay for the wall.

Across Europe, there is widespread concern on whatever course Trump might be taking as the continent reels on an economic slowdown, migration crisis, and wave of terror attacks. In the Eastern part of the continent, the Baltic states, Poland, and Ukraine are concerned that Trump’s plans to improve ties with Russia will jeopardize their security interests, especially in Ukraine which has been embroiled in political turmoil and civil war since 2014 and renewed violence in the Donbass. On the other hand, far-right parties are taking cues from Trump’s victory and fears of a domino effect which will put an end to the European Union.

The recent immigration ban in seven countries in the Middle East (Iraq, Iran, Libya, Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, Syria) has provoked backlash. Interestingly and coincidentally, Middle Eastern countries with Trump businesses were not included (Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, etc.).

When it comes to North Korea, which has been quiet for some time and with its southern neighbor embroiled in political crisis, and has stubbornly refused to give up its nuclear ambitions, it is yet to be seen what Trump will do.

With these contradictions and inconsistencies in mind, it appears we’re heading for the worst and possibly head to war. But let us hope we can do something to reverse whatever damage it will bring to the world.

Posted on [February 9, 2017](#) Posted in [World Politics](#) Tagged [China](#), [Donald Trump](#), [europe](#), [foreign policy](#), [iran](#), [isis](#), [israel](#), [mexico](#), [nato](#), [north](#)

[korea](#), [philippines](#), [poland](#), [Russia](#), [south china sea](#), [syria](#), [terrorism](#), [ukraine](#), [vietnam](#)
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PTV'S DIGITIZATION EFFORTS AND FM2 PHILIPPINES, CHAVIT EYES IBC 13

Three major developments on the state-owned media entities have emerged recently.

After the inking of a deal with NEC Philippines, it has been reported PTV will roll out its digital television transmissions in Metro Manila (which will be improved), as well as in Baguio, Naga, Guimaras, Cebu, and Davao. It is a major step towards the realization of the Duterte government's plans in putting PTV at par with its commercial counterparts.

Recently, FM 2 Philippines has relaunched operations, used to be known as DWBR Business Radio. It has so far followed a format similar to other retro stations like 105.9 DCG FM, and others. It has also been reported that the government plans to use the 87.5 frequency for an all-youth station.

Lastly, former Ilocos Sur governor Luis 'Chavit' Singson revealed plans on IBC 13 through an INQUIRER.net event where he revealed his plans post-Miss Universe. He said he has already introduced offers to the management and will plan to introduce foreign partners to help with content.

With these developments, let's see if the changes we're looking forward to in regards to state media is finally realized.

Posted on [February 10, 2017](#) Posted in [Philippine Media](#) Tagged [dwbr](#), [ibc 13](#), [pbs](#), [privatization](#), [PTV 4](#) [Leave a comment](#)

WAR ON DRUGS: LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE

In an editorial piece published in the [New York Times](#), former Colombian president Cesar Gaviria had some words for Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte, that is avoiding the mistakes he committed in leading his country's war on illegal drugs which the Philippines has done since Duterte took office in June last year.

It is noted that during Gaviria's time drug lord Pablo Escobar was put to jail (inside a facility built in his specifications) and jailing numerous suspected drug users, which of course has led to numerous casualties and suspected human rights violations.

Days after this was published, in a televised address, Duterte who is known to shrug off any form of criticism against the war on drugs, called Gaviria "[an idiot](#)", and said that "he will not commit mistakes" because "he is not stupid as him". In most cases he has also noticed the contrasts between Latin America and the Philippines, with Colombia as well as Mexico and other countries in the region being flooded by cocaine (with some help from the US because of the huge consumption in the US market and supplies coming from these countries), while the top drug of choice in the Philippines

being *shabu* (or methamphetamine hydrochloride), being sold by Chinese syndicates.

With the drug war enjoying popular support in the Philippines despite the growing international criticism, and the growing casualties (both from legitimate operations by police and vigilante killings), it is yet to be seen whether Duterte's administration will change tack in his approach in this campaign.

The police force's participation has already been tainted by scandal, with the death of Korean businessman Jee Ick-joo in the hands of rogue policemen, as a result the duties of overseeing the drug war transferred to the military.

In the course of this campaign, we have seen (from official data from the PNP) the crime rate cut down 49% (with the murder rate going up), almost 1 million users and pushers surrendering to authorities, and the vigilante killings being blamed to syndicates trying to turn in on each other and rogue policemen trying to cover up their tracks.

In light of these criticisms, it really is hard to explain the Philippine war on drugs to the international audience, as the experience in Latin America and Thailand have shown were entirely different in what the authorities intends to do.

Coupled with the black-and-white mentality prevailing now, it really is hard to speak up on these issues. What we should do is that we focus more on rehabilitation efforts and treating drug abuse as more of a public health and poverty issue, and instead of running after the low-level users and sellers, we must focus our energies in running after the large-scale syndicates and their sources of finances. Otherwise, we will achieve nothing in this campaign.

Again, things are easier said than done and we never know what happens next, so we just wait for things to unfold.

Clarifications: The author supports the present campaign against illegal drugs although with the growing number of casualties and the prevailing corruption in our police force we must instead change tactics and focus our energies towards rehabilitation. I do not want to be tagged as some sort of a fanatic by both the “yellows” and the supporters of the administration, as I have my own set of principles and political beliefs. For our international audiences, I know it’s difficult to justify the conduct of this campaign but we’d like to present as much as possible a full picture. We will encourage everybody to rely on research and form your own conclusions and not relying on everything we read, from news media to blogs like these.

Posted on [February 12, 2017](#) Posted in [Philippine Politics](#), [World Politics](#) Tagged [cesar gavia](#), [colombia](#), [duterte](#), [philippines](#), [War on Drugs](#) [Leave a comment](#)

LIGHT NETWORK MAKES THE SHIFT TO DIGITAL

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(Photo credit: Light Network's official FB page)

In a historic first and coming from an unexpected player, Jesus is Lord Church-owned Zoe Broadcasting's Light Network will join the rest of the Manila-based television stations to make the shift from analog to digital broadcasting, and will be the first to cease analog broadcasts for good. It will still use channel 33 (587.143 mhz), which is being used by their analog broadcasts.

Light Network is Zoe Broadcasting's second TV channel and holds the franchise to Channel 11 which is being operated by GMA Network's GMA News TV.

Light Network's programming consists of JIL-produced programs as well as programming from other evangelical Christian sects (Good TV of Taiwan, CBN Asia, TBN), as well as films and newscasts.

We should expect Light Network's digital signals to be received clearly in Metro Manila as their transmitters are located in Antipolo, Rizal.

This will be a truly historic moment as the DICT (Department of Information and Communications Technology) has released its transition plan in a summit held last Feb. 14-15, and a majority of broadcast networks conducting test broadcasts, with analog broadcasts ceasing by 2023.

Economic factors, government regulation, and investments by broadcasters will be huge factors in realizing this transition.

Posted on [February 22, 2017](#) Posted in [Philippine Media](#) Tagged [digital tv philippines](#), [isdb-t philippines](#), [light network](#), [zoe tv](#) [Leave a comment](#)

DIGITAL TV TRANSITION

AT A GLANCE

With Light Network making history starting today as the first free-to-air television station to completely abandon analog transmissions, we'll see how individual stations are faring well in this new technology.

(Note: We have not included 1seg channels in the total number of subchannels.)

ABS-CBN

At present, ABS-CBN has been leading the charge in the transition, with their ABS-CBN TVplus selling more than 2 million units since it was first put into the market in 2015, with the advantage of having exclusive channels aside from flagships ABS-CBN 2 and S+A on Channel 23 (CineMo, Yey!, Knowledge Channel, DZMM Teleradyo, and pay-per-view service KBO). It also has stations set up in Mega Manila (Metro Manila, Cavite, Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna), much of Central Luzon (Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Pangasinan), Benguet, Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, and Davao City. With ABS-CBN grossing as much as P30billion in ad revenues and other businesses such as film, pay TV, merchandising, aside from their traditional sources of revenue (broadcast TV and radio), ABS-CBN has the enough sources to complete the shift to digital TV way ahead of schedule.

PTV 4

PTV 4 was among the pioneers in the digital TV sphere, starting in 2009 and initially broadcasting in UHF channel 48, when it was still known as NBN 4 under the Arroyo administration (it has since been moved to UHF 42). In the latest developments under the helm of President Duterte's PCO chief Martin Andanar and PTV GM Dino Apolonio, PTV has inked a deal with NEC of Japan to supply them with new digital transmitters and will be rolled out in Metro Manila, Baguio, Naga, Guimaras, Cebu, and Davao. Interestingly, this expansion was already planned during the Aquino administration with the inclusion of Cotabato. *(Sourced from past PTV disclosures which has not yet been updated since the changing of guards from Aquino to Duterte).*

TV5

TV5 has begun testing in DTT in 2011 and has spent P700 million for the transition. However, with the network in distress due to retrenchments and a change in programming strategy, hopefully we do not see a delay as MVP has enough resources to cover the costs.

It has TV5 and AksyonTV on their lineup with the inclusion of Catsup which consisted of reruns of past TV5 shows and movies prior to being axed. TV5 uses UHF 51.

GMA Network

GMA Network has also started tests in 2011. It is also worth noting that this network was notoriously responsible for delaying the shift to DTT for its insistence on using DVB-T (which was tested by ABS-CBN in 2005) over the Japanese standard ISDB-T, however circumstances forced them to comply.

GMA also has released plans to produce its own set-up box which according to plans will be released this year. We'll see whether or not this will be a success as GMA badly needs money and new investors to cope with the costs.

At present, GMA and "GMA News TV" are included in the lineup and seen on UHF 27.

Nine Media/RPN

Nine Media/RPN is conducting low-power tests of DTT, carrying of course CNN Philippines, seen on UHF 19.

IBC 13

With time ticking IBC's privatization is still in limbo, with interested suitors but no progress whatsoever. Rumors are that PTV intends to aid them in the digitization sphere. Should no one ever be able to succeed in the privatization process (Chavit Singson, Eric Canoy, others), IBC should be the perfect spot for the planned channels for the Muslim and Lumad communities.

Solar

Solar Entertainment conducts a low-signal test on UHF 22, with ETC and Second Avenue (seen respectively on analog channels 21 and

29) in the lineup. It has included HSN, CT (then Jack City), and Basketball TV in the past.

NET25/INC TV

The Iglesia ni Cristo's secular and religious networks Eagle Broadcasting Corporation (EBC) and Christian Era Broadcasting Service (CEBSI) were also among the pioneers in digital TV, with GEMNET broadcasting in UHF 49, initially in DVB-T and eventually ISDB-T which was the standard adopted by the National Telecommunications Commission.

It was also the first to broadcast in full high definition. Digital test broadcasts were stopped in 2011 to pave way for the relaunch of GEM TV, later to be rebranded as INC TV on analog. Digital TV test broadcasts were resumed in 2015 but only during overnight hours (12-4 am) because the same frequency is being used for both analog and digital transmissions. Since then, the SD analog/cable feeds of Net25 and INC TV are being simulcast on the SD channels while a high-definition loop broadcast of their programming is being shown.

This setup is being increasingly unfeasible with the digital migration plan already being released, but however we do hope there's a way to figure out this problem, either by moving to a new frequency or allocate Channel 49 entirely to DTT broadcasts as it will be more cost-effective than maintaining 2 analog stations.

Expansion in the provinces could happen later as Net25 and INCTV rely on cable affiliates.

BEAM

BEAM, which is affiliated to Globe Telecom, is also considered a heavy player in the digital sphere. It has 8 subchannels, a majority of which are home shopping blocks (O Shopping, Shop TV, TeleVShop, TV Shop, Shop Japan), the others include Radyo Inquirer,

Chino Trinidad's Pilipinas HD, and a timeshare of Pinoy How-To TV and Western Visayas-based Island Living Channel.

BEAM has also expanded its footprint to Cebu and Davao.

ZOE TV/Light Network

Again, we would like to commend Light Network for initiating the shift. It has 3 subchannels, 1 HD feed and 2 SD feeds.

DBS

Bro. Mike Velarde's Delta Broadcasting System is pretty getting late in the game. With everyone else getting ready on the digital sphere, DBS is still only getting started in resuming analog broadcasts. They better rush before time runs out.

UNTV

UNTV is conducting test broadcasts on UHF 38. UNTV's franchise is nominally owned by the Progressive Broadcasting Corporation but is operated by Breakthrough and Milestones Productions International (BMPI), affiliated with the Members Church of God International of Bro. Eli Soriano and Daniel Razon.

It has 3 subchannels, 2 feeds of flagship UNTV and ADDTV, airing loops of MCGI's flagship program Itanong Mo Kay Soriano. UNTV also plans to launch a kids-oriented channel replacing the duplicate UNTV feed.

SMNI

Pastor Apollo Quiboloy's Sonshine Media Network International (SMNI) also conducts DTT test broadcasts on UHF 40 in Manila (albeit on a low signal) and their home base in Davao City (via UHF 44).

3ABN/Hope Channel

The Seventh Day Adventist Church-affiliated Gateway UHF Broadcasting conducts test broadcasts on UHF 44. It carries their flagship Hope Channel Philippines as well as simulcasts of their flagship international channels 3ABN and Hope Channel.

Other players

Rumours has it that the Catholic Media Network (CMN) intends to join the fray, so TV Maria can now also be seen on free TV.

It remains to be seen whether regional networks (most prominent of which are CLTV 36 of Pampanga, Cebu's CCTN 47, Butuan's Bee TV 7, General Santos-based Brigada News TV, Zamboanga-based GBPI 11 and eMedia, Lucena-based Broadcast Southern Luzon of ConAmor, PBN Bicol) will also have plans to migrate to DTT but we do hope they have the resources to do so.

Conclusion

With the Digital TV migration plan unveiled in the sidelines of the Digital TV summit held in Feb. 14-15 which required networks to have simultaneous analog and digital broadcasts for 5 years (2018-2023) prior to shutting down analog transmissions. Through the 5-year window, the networks will have to use the opportunity to fix the remaining issues, tweak the configurations, and expand the footprint of their digital broadcasts to ensure the entire country is prepared to make the shift.

With economic factors in consideration, more and more people will be enticed to avail themselves of the digital boxes and digital-ready sets already on the market, yet those without the capacity (PWD, senior citizens, minorities, urban poor, rural areas) be aided so they can enjoy the benefits of DTT.

Lastly, there should also be a sustained information campaign to raise awareness among our fellow countrymen, that said we can

speed up the process of digitization and finally catching up with the rest of the world.

Posted on [March 1, 2017](#)Posted in [Philippine Media](#)Tagged [digital terrestrial television](#), [digital TV](#), [dtv philippines](#), [isdb-t](#), [shift to digital](#) [Leave a comment](#)

TV PATROL: 30 YEARS ON AND THE NEED FOR ABS-CBN NEWS TO SHIFT TO HIGH DEFINITION

30 years ago, a new news program premiered on Philippine television which forever changed the way news was delivered, witnessing important events shaping the history of our country, changes in technology, and being the primary source of information for Filipinos.

TV Patrol was conceived as a counterpart to ABS-CBN's Radyo Patrol, and was intended to be a groundbreaking tabloid newscast, reporting the news in a language understood by the masses, informal Tagalog that is, and following the 1986 People Power Revolution, it was intended to provide Filipinos with information after 14 years of censored news.

Throughout the 30 years, it witnessed many important events (the coup attempts of the 1980s, Luzon earthquake, Pinatubo eruption, execution of Flor Contemplacion, Pope John Paul II's visit, EDSA Dos, Hello Garci, Ondoy, Cory Aquino's passing, Yolanda, and others), a change in anchors (the late Frankie Evangelista, Mel Tiangco who transferred to GMA, Noli de Castro who entered politics but since returned, Korina Sanchez, Henry Omaga-Diaz, others), changes in the broadcast industry, and the launch of regional spinoffs from Laoag to Zamboanga.

To celebrate its anniversary, it presented a multipoint newscast with Bernadette Sembrano in the Quezon City studios, Ted Failon in Tacloban, and Noli de Castro in Zamboanga. However, it is worth noting the newscast is still in high definition, along with its over live programs Umagang Kay Ganda, Bandila, and Salamat Dok.

This would have been the perfect kickoff for the celebration, but we won't be able to see that just yet, as ABS-CBN News needs to upgrade all its cameras, editing facilities, OB vans, and control rooms in high-definition. Moreover, despite last year's launch of ANC HD, some of the programming are still in standard definition, only recently most of ABS-CBN News current affairs programs seen on Channel 2 save for Mga Kwento ni Marc Logan shifted to HD, and the regional facilities still not at par with Manila.

With those aforementioned, it will be a long way to go for ABS-CBN News to fully adapt, anyways we still congratulate TV Patrol for being on air for 30 years and wish them more success.

Posted on [March 5, 2017](#) Posted in [Philippine Media](#) Tagged [ABS-CBN](#), [abs-cbn news](#), [tv patrol](#) [Leave a comment](#)

LIFE AS A FILIPINO ASPIE

Lately, I've been posing this question to myself: is it really necessary for me to tell people what my "condition" is? Is it some kind of a curse or should I use it as an asset and take pride in having it? Maybe perhaps in this country we have a stigma when someone has some sort of a mental disorder you could be crazy.

However, I have already accepted who I am and now preparing to take on the challenge to use this to the best of my ability to inspire people like me and show the world that we can do remarkable feats which can make the world a better place.

What exactly is the condition I am having?

I have what you call *Asperger syndrome*, named after Austrian pediatrician, medical theorist, and medical professor Hans Asperger. This is part of the wider autism spectrum disorder, which means a person having this is not having autism but could be having symptoms of autism. This can be further complicated by similar disorders like ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), oppositional defiant disorder (ODD), obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), and others, depending on diagnosis. It is also a type of high-functioning autism, where children or adults with this kind could be having potentially high IQ levels and could excel in areas such as mathematics, reading comprehension, or others, depending on the person.

What are its symptoms? How am I coping up with this?

A brief introduction

In 1944, Asperger observed four children with common traits: lack of empathy or understanding what people might feel, physically clumsy, social awkwardness, and lack of nonverbal communication skills. He called these children “little professors” because of their obsessive interest in one particular area. For easier understanding, please refer to the infographic below. These can be mitigated by social skills classes (in groups with kids of similar traits), speech therapy, or occupational therapy.



What is.... ASPERGER SYNDROME?

A developmental disorder which falls within the Autism Spectrum. Asperger Syndrome, referred to by many as "High Functioning Autism," is a developmental disorder that is not widely understood. Main features of this disorder become obvious during early childhood and remain constant throughout life, although the common features and degree of actual impairment can vary. Rarely recognised before the age of three, it is more common in boys than girls. Core features of the syndrome are lack of social skills, limited ability to have a two way conversation and an intense interest in a particular subject. Most of these children attend normal primary schools.

COMMUNICATION



Poor conversation skills



Talks incessantly about one topic



Rarely makes eye contact



Concrete pedantic interpretation of language

Although these children are often highly articulate, content of speech may be abnormal, tending to be pedantic and often centering on one or two favourite topics. Sometimes a word or phrase is repeated over and over in stereotyped fashion. Usually, there is a comprehension deficit despite apparent superior verbal skills. Non verbal communication, both expressive and receptive is often impaired.

SOCIAL INTERACTION



Often teased and bullied by other children



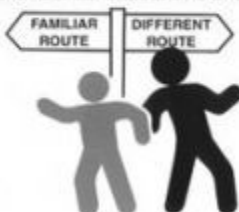
The odd one out



Indifferent to physical contact

There tends to be impairment in two way social interaction due to an inability to understand the rules governing social behaviour. A lack of empathy with others and little or no eye contact may be evident. Can appear to be stuck at the egocentric stage of social and emotional development. They tend to perceive the world exclusively from their own point of view. Although interested in social relationships often social contact is made inappropriately.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR



Familiar routine very important



Eccentric, unusual behaviour



Inappropriate laughing or giggling



Solitary repetitive play

Social behaviour is often naive and peculiar. Can tend to become intensely attached to particular possessions often engaging in repetitive activities. Resistant to change, coping best when life is predictable. They prefer structure and may concentrate exclusively on matters in which they are interested. Are often known as loners who never quite fit in because of eccentric behaviour, peculiar ways of speaking and a lack of social skills.

COMMON FEATURES:

- Excellent rote memory, absorbs facts easily.
- Generally performs well with maths, science and reading.
- May be anxious and unable to cope with criticism or imperfection.
- Often victims of teasing and bullying leading to withdrawal into isolated activities.
- Can appear clumsy and have an unusual gait or stance.
- Often seen as odd or eccentric.
- Language often appears good but may have limited content

Source: [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)

On coping up

I was made aware of this since I was around 3 years old. Even with a young age, I've had a particular obsession with broadcast media (especially television) and politics which I further developed as I grew up. This is the reason why I chose communication as my course.

Growing up, I've had a particular problem with socialization, struggling with the feeling that I have to be left alone or the need of someone to talk to. Coming with that lack of socialization is the exposure to sorts of bullying. I worry a lot that I might be doing something inappropriate or unacceptable to norms or expectations. You may even think we're angry most of the time because we speak in a monotonous manner.

There's also this curiosity which compels me to do the most stupid of things, though I try my best to control myself. I also feel that whatever pops to my head, I must share just for the sake of giving myself peace of mind but perhaps I am just making things worse.

I am thankful however because along the way there are friends and family who helped me along the way.

Acceptance

College life has given me the freedom to be myself, although along the way I also learned how to know my limits, which of course an area with problems because I get excited most of the time.

Acceptance is a two-way process. For my part, I already accepted who I was, even my flaws. The only thing I can do is embrace them and use them as tools to better improve myself. For the rest of the

world, we need you to accept us. Because of that lingering stigma you may feel you have to do everything in your power to make them “change”, “behave”, make them “normal”. But is that necessary? Based on my experiences, I think not. We do acknowledge we won’t be able to control other people’s feelings, emotions, or what they think about us but this is what made us, us. You don’t have to make us “change”. Just accept us for who we are, and help us cope with the challenges of living in this world. Help us be equipped. When we make “mistakes”, let us be. That’s how we learn, by experience.

May this help each and every single kid or adult with special needs, may this inspire the teachers and parents who shower us with love, acceptance, and affection, and may the world see through our eyes and embrace us into this world. We’re different in our special way.

Posted on [March 8, 2017](#) Posted in [Uncategorized](#) Tagged [acceptance](#), [aspergers syndrome](#), [autism](#), [neurodiversity](#) [Leave a comment](#)

MY TAKE: NYT’S PIECE ON DU30

With the New York Times’ article on Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte dominating the political discussion, general sentiment is, as always, negative, with spokesperson Ernesto Abella stating this is part of a larger plot to unseat the president.

To start, what did the NYT do? They published an article detailing his rise to power, first as Davao City mayor, then uploading a documentary documenting the supposed “human rights abuses” committed along the course of the illegal drug war, and an editorial proposing economic sanctions on the Philippines, similar to what the

US and EU have imposed on countries like Iran, North Korea, Russia, and others.

To much of the Filipino public, this is seen as yet another attempt to unseat the president and restore the old order, or to some, another example of Western-facilitated attempts to remove any leader straying away from its sphere.

This blog will try to avoid political subjects as we try to avoid getting caught in the crossfire, but the urge to discuss this topic is unavoidable. It is particularly difficult to explain to foreign audiences what is happening in the country, and at home we're having a particularly difficult time setting aside differences so other agendas like federalism and economic reform sets into motion.

As for parting words, we do hope that things don't spin out of control and we have to stay involved in the larger discourse.

Posted on [March 29, 2017](#)Posted in [Philippine Politics](#), [World Politics](#)[Leave a comment](#)

REGIONAL TELEVISION IN THE PHILLIPPINES

In a television industry dominated by Manila-based giants with much of their programming seen across the country and much of their relay stations owned by the networks themselves, regional players may be unfamiliar to most of us. But these broadcasters play a huge part in providing news and entertainment to their respective localities and reflects the diversity of our nation. We'll take a look at the most prominent examples of regional-based broadcasters in the Philippines.

Central Luzon Television (CLTV 36)

CLTV 36 or Central Luzon Television was established in the year 2007 and has since become the largest, if not among the largest, regional television networks in the country. Based in Pampanga, its coverage area and programming targets much of the Central Luzon region. Its signals can also be seen in some areas of Metro Manila and even Cavite albeit on a low signal. It airs news, public affairs, infotainment, and some entertainment programs. It is also seen on Signal Digital TV.

NE TV 48

NE TV 48 is a television station based in Nueva Ecija. NE TV is also similar in format to the other local stations and we hope NE TV has the resources to expand in DTT.

ConAmor Broadcasting's Broadcast Southern Luzon

For Southern Luzon, there is Broadcast Channel 6, based in Lucena. It lacks the social media presence and we don't know much about the station and its offerings, but from what we know from their very limited social media presence they simulcast programs heard from their radio stations DWTI and Kiss FM. The station's parent company is owned by a local politician. We don't know whether they'll be able to shift to DTV given their very limited presence, let alone sustain operations.

Bandera News TV

Bandera News TV is a relatively new player based in Palawan. With a teleradyo concept it is expected they could expand to DTT.

PBN Bicol

PBN Bicol operates TV stations in Naga and Legazpi, but is primarily affiliated with TV5. It remains to be seen whether they will have the resources to expand to the digital TV sphere.

Cebu Catholic Television Network (CCTN 47)

Cebu Catholic Television Network or CCTN is the Catholic television station run by the Archdiocese of Cebu. It shows not only religious programs but newscasts as well. It also provides livestream features. It is also expected they will have the resources to expand to DTT.

Bee TV

Bee TV 7 is a local television station owned by the Northern Mindanao Broadcasting System, formerly affiliated with GMA Network and People's Television Network. It has since become an independent television station. With social media presence, we also expect this station to have enough resources to expand to DTT though it is still a fledgling station.

Brigada News TV

Brigada News TV is the teleradyo counterpart of the General Santos-based multimedia broadcasters. With its FM news stations spread across the country and with it being a strong local player, it is expected Brigada will have the resources to expand to DTT.

Davao Christian Bible Channel

Davao Christian Bible Channel is a small religious channel based in Davao City, but it should not be a reason for it not to have the resources necessary to shift.

GBPI

GBPI (Golden Broadcast Professionals) operates Channel 11 which is affiliated with TV5, with some local programs such as daily newscast

Dateline Zamboanga. It is expected that GBPI will have the resources to expand to DTT.

eMedia

eMedia is a local news channel in Zamboanga, operating on channel 37. With this, we also expect the station to expand in DTT.

Conclusion

The above stations mentioned are the most prominent examples. There may be those not mentioned but we have to consider the very limited information we have. Given the dominance of national networks, we have to consider these local broadcasters as well as they provide service to their respective localities and cater to their respective regional tastes. These stations reflect the diversity of our nation and they as well deserve a chance to be on par with the national networks especially that in a few years' time we will bid analog TV goodbye and we're facilitating a shift to digital TV.

Posted on [March 29, 2017](#) Posted in [Philippine Media](#) Tagged [bandera news philippines](#), [bee tv](#), [brigada news tv](#), [cctn 47](#), [cltv 36](#), [conamor](#), [dcbc davao](#), [emedia](#), [gbpi](#), [netv](#), [pbn bicol](#), [regional tv](#) [Leave a comment](#)

CANCER SIX TIMES A DAY

Yung pakiramdam na lahat tayo ay nagsasawa na sa mga teleseryeng may paulit-ulit na storya, walang tigil na gantiyan, patayan, landian, at kung ano pa man yan FIVE TIMES A WEEK, well, pati Sabado may teleserye na din.

Dahil sa malakas na hatak sa ratings ng *Ipaglaban Mo!*, ang legal drama anthology ng ABS-CBN sa Saturday afternoon slot, napilitan ang GMA Network na i-extend na lamang hanggang Sabado ang drama na *Ika-6 na Utos* na umeere Lunes hanggang Biyernes pagkatapos ng *Eat Bulaga*, na pinagbibidahan nila Sunshine Dizon at Gabby Concepcion. Kamakailan lamang ay sinubukan ng GMA na tapatan ang *Ipaglaban Mo* sa pamamagitan ng isa ring crime anthology na pinamagatang *Case Solved* kung saan naman host si Dingdong Dantes.

You may remember during the past few years ay GMA ang nauuna sa Saturday afternoon slot, with *Startalk*. Pero matatandaan na during the past years ay muling mas nagkakaroon ng advantage ang ABS-CBN sa iba pang timeslots, kabilang na din ang Sabado ng hapon. This shows how GMA is severely disadvantaged when it comes to programming.

But the larger problem, dahil sa kakulangan ng strategies at creativity when it comes to content, ay no choice na ang network kundi mag-extend na lamang ng teleserye, sa panahong nagsasawa na sa 5-days-a-week format ng teleserye, repetitive storylines, at mga run na dumedepende sa success ng teleserye. [*Inamin ko na fan ako ng Ang Probinsyano pero nabwisit na ako nung ginawa nilang pugante at kriminal si Cardo. Halatang pinapahaba lang para tumaas ang ratings.*] Dahil sa ganitong strategies ay dumadami na lalo ang nagdedepend na lamang sa downloaded series sa internet (mapa-US, South Korea, Japan man yan). Swertehan na lang kung naka-cable ka.

This is both a sign of desperation for GMA in particular and Philippine television in general. Wake up call na ito mga bes. Ayusin niyo programming niyo, introduce better concepts, bawasan ang teleserye, kundi mababawasan pa kayo ng viewership.

Posted on [April 2, 2017](#) Posted in [Philippine Media](#) Tagged [ABS-CBN](#), [GMA](#), [philippine tv](#), [teleserye](#) [Leave a comment](#)